

S. L. T. H. E. T. V.  
HISTORY  
Of the Seven  
Wise Mistresses  
O F  
R O M E.

Whose Names were

{ *Helienja, Penthesilla,*  
{ *Mardula, Debora,*  
{ *Cicre, Dejanara,*  
{ *Boadicea*

Wherein, the Treachery of Evil Counsel  
discovered, the Innocency of harmless  
Virgins cleared, and the Wisdom of Seven  
Wise Women displayed, to the wonder of  
their own Nation, and the Admiration of  
all the World.

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1565

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ROMEO





# The EPISTLE TO THE READER.

*Reader,*

**W**Hat thou findest written in this small Piece, or little Volume, was written for thy benefit, whereby thou maiest learn to know what canting, what deceits, and juggling Devices were commonly used in ancient Counsels, by powerful Combinations and violent prosecutions, Honour being the subject to make them ambitious; but the subject of my Discourse is Counsel and Wisdom: that is rarity, not novelty, attended both by Vice and Vertue, to teach thee how to imbrace the one, and to shun the other. And therefore I have laboured like unto the Bee to extract and gather a little Honey into a little Hive, being the first-fruits of my Labours between Vice and Vertue, collected into an easie

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and small Method for the benefit of the Seller, the ease of the Buyer, and the pleasure of the Reader. And though it is short, yet it is sweet, and of sundry Counsels and Consultations, from the subtile Judge on the Bench of Justice, to the harmless Lady in her Cabinet of Innocency : and from the Emperour upon his Throne of Prosperity, to the Beggar in his Cave of Poverty ; and therefore in all matters and in all actions thou goest about, here is the platform of Sincerity, Truth, Zeal and Fidelity ; whereby Treason is discovered, Truth is advanced, Treachery is executed, Vertue is exalted, and Vice is confounded. And for the due observation of these Precepts, and the further encouragement for thee to Read them, mind these four rules.

*If thou wouldst be Wise, here are Counsels to advice thee.*

*If thou wouldst be Vertuous, here are Presidents to give thee.*

*If thou wouldst be Historical, here are Rules to direct thee.*

*If thou wouldst be Viceous, here are Examples before thee both Divine and Humane.*

From all which thou wilt learn, Vanity to contemn it ; Death to expect it ; Judgement to avoid it ; Hell to escape it ; and Heaven to desire it.

It is collected in way of Examples and Declarations to a Moral Sense; and if thou wouldst ask the Author from whence he gathered all these varieties of Delights? he doth answer, from various sorts of Histories: as *Plato, Virgil, Ovid, Dares*, old *Homer*, and divers others; to relate all is needless; and in their Works have I been groveling some certain years to find out the remarkable Demonstrations, which I have here expos'd to the publick view of the World. For in Histories are to be found numerous Delights pleasing the Fancy, expelling Melancholly, sharpening the Wit, illuminating the Understanding, and refining the Tongue to the purity of all Oratory.

The due observation of Histories learns both Carriage and Deportment, and is able out of the roughness of Barbarism, to raise man to the noblest height of all Gentilities, Courtships, and Civilities, and to carry on Designs of united Hearts at greatest distance: and whosoever maintains his Correspondency with Learning, must of necessity with Historical Humorists; and though their Bodies are absent, yea, and haply rotten in their graves, or consumed to dust and ashes many hundred years ago, yet having their Works before us, we do dispute, confer, and argue, yea, and know their hearts and approbations in mat-

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ters both Ecclesiastical and Civil, as absolute as if their persons were alive and in our presence.

From Histories we learn by way of tradition, to know what was done a thousand years ago, and ten thousand miles distant from the place, as well, nay and better then thousands which lived in those very days, and where the actions were done: Therefore History ought to be praised, not contemned; for it doth encourage Youth through the pleasantness of the Story, whereby he doth sooner attain to his English Tongue, and is still more desirous to read further. For many thousands at School, in their innocency, are more naturally given to learn first Historical Fables, by which they sooner come to read perfect, then to begin first in hard Books appertaining to Divine knowledge; which made that rare and learned Scholar *Aesop*, to put forth his Fables in the Schools, which being composed with such incomparable and acute Wit, Jest and Merriment, that each Scholar daily strove who should outvie the other in the Dispute and Rehearsal of them.

To declare any further of what this little Piece doth mention & concern, I need not, lest I should be found faulty in the too much praise of it, or at least too tedious to the Reader; for I my self do love matters in brief, and not of too long feigned circumstance: Therefore I desire thee,  
Reader,

*to the Reader.*

Reader, as I have taken the pains in Collecting  
it, so do thou spend thy labour in reading it ;  
and I'll give thee leave to spend thy Verdict. If  
it be worthy of thy approbation, and found ac-  
ceptable to thy Fancy, return the Author but  
Thanks, who did endeavour so willing to serve  
thee in this :

**And he will remain thy  
Friend, if deserv'd**

*Tho. Howard.*



**But**





But take this Verse with thee.

**T**O learn to live, to read to know,

Thou art commanded to :

To live, to learn, to know, to read,

All these things thou must do,

Then learn to read, and read to know,

If thou wouldst learn to live :

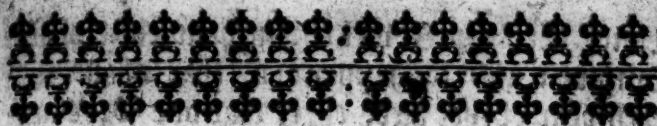
And read to learn what I have writ,

Which will not thee deceive.



THE





THE  
HISTORY  
Of the Seven  
VVisse Mistresses.



Sometime in Rome there li-  
ved a goodly and renowned  
Empress, named Lucretius,  
a Lady of great vertue and  
marvellous wisdom: she  
was sole heiress boyn to the  
Imperial Crown, and e-  
spoused the son of a King  
who was a rich and glorious Prince, and  
honoured above all others, being gracious to  
his Empress, loving to his Subjects, and  
amiable to all; She conceived by him, and  
bare him a Daughter, named Sabrina, the  
most fairest in all the World. This Sabrina  
grew apace, most beautiful, lovely, and comely,  
and esteemed by all the people in that same  
Land,

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Land, the only Jewel throughout the whole Empire: and it happened, that about the sixth year of her age, there was one Province within the King her Fathers Dominions, which caused many insurrections, mutinies, and rebellions to be made against their Sovereign, which required the King to make the more haste for suppression thereof, lest by their rude inducements they should gather together a force too inconsiderable for his strength to reduce; thereupon he beat up his Drums, pitcht up his Royal Standard, and summoned all his Lords and noble Barons of his Realm to appear, and with a mighty force hastened away to suppress the rude multitude which had rebelled; but the weather proving unconstant and various, and he forced in such full speed, through heat and cold, he chanced by the way to fall sick of a Feaver, and lying in such a desperate condition, without hopes of recovery, he considered more the education of his young Daughter, then the State and condition of his whole Empire, in reference to the innocency and weakness of her age: and therefore it induced him to write unto his Emperess this following Letter.

Dear Lady, my Journey hath proved very unsuccessful-

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successful to me, for by the way I am taken sick with a most sad and grievous Feaver; therefore pray make haste unto me, that we may provide for the education of our young daughter *Sabrina*, and the State, and settlement of our Empire, for I am without hopes of recovery, and if you make not great speed, you are never like to see me alive.

The Messenger posted away to the Empress, and finding her walking in the Garden, expecting every hour news from her beloved husband, he did reverence unto her, and delivered the Letter; the Empress broke it up, and reading what condition her Lord was in, fell in a swoond, to the astonishment of all her Ladies: but as soon as she had recovered life, she caused her Chariot and Horses to be made ready incontinent, and hasted both night and day till she came to her Lord the King, who she found almost dead, and she fell upon his breast, and kissed his clay cold lips, he rising half up in his bed with showers of tears betwixt each face, he to her spake thus:

O my dear Lady, it joys me that you are come, where with you I may impart all my troubled mind I am possess'd withal, since I may not escape this infirmity: the natural love and care I bear unto you, and your young

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young Daughter Sabrina, makes me sue unto you thus : First, that you cause her to be brought up with the best experienced and wisest persons in all the Realm, whereby she might be brought and well educated in all Arts and Sciences, befitting a Princess so nobly descended; and after that she hath attained unto all those Vertues, I will that you take her home to your Royal Palace, and to have recourse to your honourable Council, whereby she may perfect her self in all State and Temporal affairs; and thirdly, that after your decease, she may enjoy the Empire; and wear the Royal Diadem. And you my dear Lady considering you are



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old and well stricken in years, I will that you chuse by the advice of your honourable Council a wise and grave Senator to assist your Royal Person in all things appertaining to the affairs of the Empire, and Guardian to your young Daughter *Sabrina*, till she come to Maturity. The grieved Empress answered, My dear Lord, all these things shall be performed and done according to your will and request: then kissing each other, the King turned himself upon his Pillow, and gave up the Ghost; afterwards conveighed into his own Countrey, and his doleful Funeral solemnized, he was honourably interred in his own Chappel.

### CHAP. I.

How the Empress and her Council committed the charge of her Daughter *Sabrina* to seven Wise Mistresses, for her Education in all Arts and Sciences.

IT happened upon a time, as the Empress was solitarily walking in her Garden, she hathought her self of the death of her late Husband; and musing in her heart of the words he spake unto her at his last breath, concerning the State of his Empire, and especially his young Daughter *Sabrina*, whole

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whose only delight in all the World she was, murthered in her heart and said, Now my dear Lord and Husband is dead and gone, there is but one in the World whom I take pleasure in, and that is my only Daughter Sabrina, the very flower and glory of all other Virgins, and but she alive to inherit my Realm after me, it is good whilst she is young that she be set unto some wise experienced Matron, who is a holy and devout Virgin, to learn understanding, and to resolve reasons when time might require her upon the Judgment Seat. Thereupon the Emperess assembled all the Lords of her Council before her and demanded every one his advice concerning her young Daughter Sabrina; and some of them gave their advice that the Emperess should build a Tower within her own Castle, and cause to be put in there the young Lady, with five devout and wise Virgins to attend her, and two Philosophers which then lived in Rome, to instruct her in natural Philosophy, and other Arts and Sciences: but the other Lords of the Council would not agree thereto, and stood up, and said to the Emperess thus: Most Sovereign Lady, this is not expedient that she should be in such a Tower, nor in such a way instructed for these things.

slayer

First,

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First, if she be in such a Tower, your Nobles and Ladies that frequent your Palace, by too often visiting her, will make her minde more the pleasures of the Court, then to practice in her learning.

Secondly, Men tutors are not meet for such a Princess so incomparable in beauty as she is, for through too much familiarity and weakness of her tender years, great injuries may ensue, and her Princely vertues stained.

Thirdly, for her Attendants being but five weak Ladies, and consequently not over skillful, might for hopes of future advancement, to please the young Lady, give her too much liberty in yielding to her fancies, and thereby destroy the best time of her studience.

But gracious Lady, there is living not far from this City, in a fair and stately Cloister, seven Wise Mistresses, most cunning and expert in Wisdom, answering all Reasonous and Questions, and for their famous skill and learning excelleth all women in the world, the Emperess hearing this accorded to their advice; and sent her Letter of Summons unto them, upon great penalties to appear befoze her Majesty: They anon came, and the Emperess demanded the cause of their coming: they answered, we shall  
B resolve

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resolve you the cause, for we have seen it in a dream, which was this :

We saw a high and mighty Tree, whose branches covered all the Realm, under whose leaves the Beasts of the Earth did shelter without number ; and in an instant we saw it fall and dissolve, that nothing but the roots remained obvious : The Empress said, shew me the meaning thereof : they said, the Tree which we saw was our Sovereign Lord the King, the spreading Branches signified his Power extending over all his Empire ; when the Tree falling, it signified our Lord died, out of whose roots is sprung up a young Cien who shall rule the Empire with equity and honour, whose learning and education you will commit to our charge.

You have said right, answered the Empress, for my Lord is dead, and I have but one only Daughter in all the world, who I commit unto you to instruct and inform in all good ways and vertuous learning, so that by your skill and wisdom she may attain to all good things appertaining to so great and noble a Patronage, &c.

The first Mistress named Halicuja, said, great Lady, commit the education of your Daughter to me, and I shall teach her as much wisdom, Ecclesiastical and Civil in  
seven



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seven years, as I and all my fellows can all the days of our lives.

Then stood up the second Mistress named Mardula, and said, Great Lady, I have tutored Emperors Daughters, and instructed Queens both at home and abroad in all Arts and Sciences; therefore if you please to deliver your Daughter to me, I shall learn her as much natural Philosophy in six years as I and all my fellows have.

The third then addressed her self, named Cicre, and said, gracious Lady, I have been with you in strange Countreys, and shewed you, by my Art and Skill in the Planets what noble Prince should wed ye, and never



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asked any reward, onely this, if I may obtain that favour of ye, as to boughsafe me the tuition and instruction of your daughter, I will inform her as much in five years as all the Mistresses in Rome can.

The fourth Mistress drew near the Emperess, who was called Penthisilia, and said, Great Lady, I have been Governess to many Ladies, and have served you in your Infancy; therefore if you will deliver your Daughter to me, I will train her up in vertue, and teach her as perfect in all arts and sciences in four years as I and all my fellows be.

The fifth Mistress named Debora, then addrest her self, and said, O honoured Lady, I have by my skill and wisdom defended the City of Rome from dangerous and great invasions, and many times called to the Senate house, where they have profited much by my counsel: yet the greatest thing I desire in the world, is to have your Daughter to instruct, and I will learn her to do as marvellous things in three years as I and all my fellow Students.

Then addrest the sixth, named Dejanara, and said, Dread Lady, if you commit the tuition of your Daughter to me, I will teach her as much as all can do in two years. And  
like

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likewise the seventh Mistress said, glorious Empress, vouchsafe your Daughter me, and I will learn her as much art and science in one year as is in all the world.

Then stood up the Empress, and spake before them all, I render unto you many thanks; for as much as I am obliged unto you all, but if I should commit the charge of my onely Daughter to one, and not to another for her education, the event would prove a great discord amongst you; therefore do I commit her to the charge of you all joyntly together, to teach and tutor in all learning, vertue, and wisdom, as best fits a Princess in such Royal dignity.

The wise and learned Mistresses hearing the Noble and Generous expression of the Empress, knowing it to be but justice, with a full and general accord they agreed together, and with great joy returned thanks to the Empress; so received her Daughter, and led her a way towards a sumptuous Pallace some four miles out of Rome; and going on their way, Baodicia said to her fellows, if we should now instruct and teach this Child publicly, and grant her recourse to the pleasant Gardens, it would prove a hinderance to her Princely study: Moreover, the Egyptian Knights hearing of so great a beauty,

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might

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might by chance, when we little think of it, steal her away by force. When answered Mardula, let us put her in the brazen Tower on which are seven locks, and let every one of us keep a key, and we will paint upon all Instruments of Musick, the Seven liberal Sciences, that when ever she delights to play upon the Musick, she might their behold her Doctrine thereon, so that it may never be out of memory.

This saying pleased all well, and being done accordingly, the Mistresses used their best skill and diligence in attending the young Lady, for the space of seven years; which being expired they appointed a day for to prove her experience, in what she had learnt; thereupon they all consented, and for the tryal thereof proposed three questions to her.

First, what number of Stars were fixed in the Firmament?

She answered, that number first created.

Secondly, when do the Planets begin to rise?

She answered after they go down.

Thirdly, what knowledge made women wisest?

She answered, the knowledge of good and evil.

The Wise Mistresses hearing these wise and accute answers, said among themselves, doubtless this Lady will be a famous Woman,

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man, and also will excel all her Progenitors.

### CHAP. II.

How the Empress by the advice of her Lords, chose Radamentus her assistant in the Government of the Empire, and also Cuardian to her Daughter Sabrina.

**N**OW about this time the Princes of the Land, with all the Barons, assembled themselves together before the Empress in full Council, for the election of a grand Consul, expert in the Laws and customs of the Empire, for to assist the Empress in all Temporal affairs, according to the will of her late Husband the King; and they chose one Radamentus, who was Uncle to the late King, a wise and cunning Politick, and one whom the Empress reposed great confidence in; that whatsoever he did enact or contrive she was ready to sign: to which the Nobles of the Land gave their general consent, for the better ease of the Queen, and their own future trouble. This Radamentus holding the Helm of the Empire in so great sway, he grew haughty and ambitious to more honour, and thinking to himself, that the Empress was weak and sickly, and if she did dye, 'twas probable he might take the sole Government



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to himself, and rule as Lord and Emperor.

But understanding the Emperess had a young Daughter, and brought up in the School of the Seven Wise Mistresses, and right Heir to the Crown; he thought when he came to maturity she would out-wit him, and prove more craftier than himself: therefore from that time he daily sought her destruction. Now there was a Law at that time, that whosoever was found in Fornication and Adultery, were to die by that Law without mercy; so upon a day as the Emperess and Radamentus were both walking in the Garden, Radamentus seemed to be very melancholly, and would not speak: the Emperess seeing him so heavy, marvelled greatly, and asked him the cause of his sadness: who answered, Now the Realm is in full peace and quietness, there is but one thing I request of you; the Emperess said, ask what you will, it shall be granted to the one half of my Prerogative.

Then said the Consul, you have but one onely Daughter in the world, and Heiress to the Empire, and she you cause to be detained between stone walls, wherein she spends the flower of her years onely in thoughts and contemplations, that what she (as a Princess) do there imagine within, the veriest wretch in the world do see it actually abroad; there



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therefore send for her to Court, that you may have consolation of her, and she may see the practice thereof, and have recourse to the Council. Then answered the Empress, I like your saying, for it is seven years since I have seen her; thereupon she wrote Letters signed with her privy Signet, and Messengers to the Seven Wise Mistresses, for to hasten away to the Court of Rome again such a day, and bring Sabrina the young Princess with them.

### C H A P. III.

How the Seven Wise Mistresses, after sight of the Empress Letters, by their powerful skill went to search the Planets, by which they understood the Design of Radamentus.

**W**hen the Mistresses had received the Empress Letter, and understood the Contents thereof, they fell to their Books, and fathomed their skill, directing their Figures, and marking the Planets, if the cause of their going might be fortunate or no. And they found a great contagion among the signs, from whence they did predict, that when they presented the young Lady, if she should answer any more words than one, her enemies would have power over her to betray her to the shamefullest

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fullest death that may be ; so they were very heavy , and mourned all the day long : about the evening tide, came down the young Lady Sabrina , to delight her self upon the Musick, and seeing all the seven Mistresses very sad, she demanded the cause of their grief ; who answered, O Lady, this morning we have received Letters from the Emperess, that we forthwith do hast to Court, and bring you along with us , and we have seen a Star that your journey will prove fatal if you speak any more words then one, which is Justice, that you shall say, and no more, for the space of seven days; and this is the thing which grieves us, that since we have nourished you for so many

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many years, should now at the last be reduced to such a hazard.

Then said the young Lady, being full of vertuous learning, I have viewed the Firmament my self, and marked the motions of the lesser Stars, and found your saying true; but if you will hear my counsel, and receive my advice, without doubt my vertue shall overtop their vice, and my cunning wisdom shall exceed their crafty treachery: Then said the Mistresses speak on your Doctrine. We will hearken to it; and she said, I shall be accus'd of an evil person and unjustly condemned: but if every of you seven can speak to my Mother the Empress, each one her day for seven days together in my behalf, I shall escape my life: The Mistresses hearing this: they all accorded in a joyful harmony, and said among themselves, what joy is come to us, surely she will be an Empress of great fame and wisdom: so they cloathed her in cloth of gold and rich ornaments; and provided a Chariot of Azure colour, drawn by four white Steeds, who gently pac'd the ground like as they trod by some directed steps in the Air; so with a train of pure Virgins she was accompanied to the Empress.

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### CHAP. IV.

How the Empress hearing her Daughter was coming on the way, rode in great Triumph with all her Princes and Barons to meet her.

**W**hen the Empress heard that the seven wise Mistresses of Rome when coming with her young daughter Sabrina, she caused all her Chariots to be made ready, and with her Heraulds, Trophies, and Banners, accompanied with all her Nobles, rode on the way to meet them: but said the Mistresses to Sabrina, it were good for us to depart and go into the City some other way, and diligently watch the Planets in their several motions, for the safeguard of your life, and the preservation of us: to this the young Lady willingly condescended, but remember me in my necessity, she said: so they departed, and the young Lady rode on her way: but when the Empress saw her, she took her in her Arms and kissed her, saying, O my dear Daughter, the only delight I have in the world, whom God doth preserve for future blessings, how is it with you: now I hope you will be to me the flower of my external happiness, being conformed in all virtues learning, the fitter to sit upon my

Judge





Judgement Seat after me: the young Lady, bowed and did reverence unto the Empress but spake not a word. When the Empress saw this, she blushed with very fear some evil had befallen her, that she spake not; and yet she thought in her self, that being out of the Country so many years, learning strange Arts, she might forget her natural language, and a thousand other things came in her minde: and anon she asked her again, what she had learnd so many years with the wise Mistresses of Rome, she answered, Justice, so bowed her self, and spake not one word more. Then the Empress acquainted her Lords, how and in what condition her daughter



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Daughter was in, and said for the evil the Mistresses had wrought with her, they should die the most shameful death that could be thought of; and when she came to the Palace, she took her by the hand and led her into the great Hall, out of thence into the Garden, and plac'd her by her in the Arbour upon her own seat, and said, My good Daughter, declare unto me the reason by some certain sign why you will not speak, or else here is a Pen and Paper, - write to me your mind; she took the Pen in her hand and wrote these lines:

Through Learning which doth me adorn,  
I very plainly see,  
The Star where under I was born  
proves fatal now to me:  
And I in bed have lately dream'd,  
what after will ensue;  
That I three times shall be condemn'd  
in Judgment-seat by you.

When the Empress saw these lines, she was astonish'd and wond'z'd greatly, for she knew not the meaning thereof how that she should give Judgment three times on her own Daughter, she wrung her hands, and mourned greatly; then came Radamentus the great

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great Consul, and said unto the Empress, is this your Daughter which hath been brought up with the seven wise Mistresses of Rome? the Empress answered, this is my Daughter and only Heir to the Empire, but she now has no expression with her Tongue: Radamentus stood still and beheld her, and saw her countenance so pleasant, and of such incomparable beauty, that the like was not in all the World, he burned inwardly with lust, and deceitfully said to the Empress, deliver her to me, and by often perswasion without doubt I'll make her declare to me her whole studience; this did he not only for love and honour he bore to her, but rather to satisfy his insatiate lustful appetite, and after conspire her destruction, which was the main thing he aimed at, but God infused in the heart of the Princess not to go with him.

### C H A P. V.

How Radamentus watched his opportunity how he might surprize the Princess in the Garden, and how he conspired to take away her life.

**R**adamentus after this, being in his chamber window, espied the Princess going into the Garden to walk under the Hickamore-trees, without any body with her

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her, and it happened that she left the key in the dooꝝ on the inside and forgot to shut it.

The old Consul came down and entered the Garden, locking the dooꝝ, and taking the key out, he came to the Lady upon a sudden as she was contemplating under the tree; who at the presence of Radamentus, she began to blush, that there appeared in her face such a Crimson dye, that the malice of Radamentus was reduced into a venial love; and thus he began to court her.

Gentle Lady, give me leave to tell ye, that the first time I saw ye, there was a fire kindled within my heart, and now your beauty begets another, which nothing can alay, except you boughsate me the favour to let me sleep with you upon this bed of Roses, and repose our selves in the bosom of love. the Royal Princess turned about and with a scornful gesture gave a repulse to his lascivious demand, which caused his countenance to fall, and his fancy turned to fury; therefore he ran out of the Garden, and locked the dooꝝ, and threw the key in again, and cryed out that he saw the Princess with a man under a Fig tree, committing the foul sin of Fornication, as a breach of the Law, the Shame of her Parents, and the destruction of her own Soul. The Emperess hearing this was

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was struck with horror and amazement, to think that her onely Daughter and heiress to the Empire should prove so unfortunate: First, instead of Arts and Sciences, she should have been perfected with, she was delivered unto me Speechless; where I thought she was adorned with virtues, she is besotted with vice; I would the day of her birth had been the day of her burial: so the Emperess believed all that the wicked Consul had reported; and the Nobles that were present asked where he saw her, and he said, under a Sycomore-tree, but said, the man when he perceived me, ran away; then the Nobles hastened into the Garden, and found the Princess walking by her self, they asked her what man had been with her there: she answered nothing. Then the Emperess seeing it apparent that she was in the Garden as Radamentus reported, believed all as was said; therefore in rage and choler, she commanded her to be led away and burnt at a stake: but the Ladies which came with the Princess and other of the Nobility, addressed themselves to the Emperess, and said, gracious Lady she is your only Daughter, and all you have in the World, it is good that she have a little respite, and you better consider of the matter, it may chance to prove but a  
C mistake



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mistake of the Consul; for if you hastily thus put her to death, it will accrue to your dishonour, and we shall gain reproach of all Nations; therefore let a day be appointed, and she appear in judgment, if she deserve death, to be found by twelve men, and fairly condemned by the Law. At this the Empress be thought her self, being something reconciled of her rashness, and committed her to safe Prison.

### CHAP. VI.

How Radamentus complained against the young Princess, and how he accused her of Fornication, being death by the Law.

**R**adamentus finding his accusation took effect, no time was omitted for the prosecution thereof, for his insatiable spirit would not be satisfied till life and all was gone; therefore he came again to the Empress as a man in great sorrow and pain, and the Empress said, My grave Lord and Counsellor, what aileth you to be so heavy? A Lady, said Radamentus, how should I otherwise chuse, thinking what stain and defamacion will rely upon this our Empire, because of your graceless Daughter, through her lascivious actions within your Court, as



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common Whore; and if you let her live any longer in this foul sin, you will be counted no less your self, and rendered odious over all the World; for the rumour of people will be upon you, saying, What need we fear to break the Law, since the Law-makers do violate it? the Daughter of the Emperess is both a Whore and Scrumpet; and thus through her means we shall have vice supported, and vertue oppressed: for what need they care, since they have such evil precedents. Then said the Emperess, to prevent all these evils, to morrow I shall sit in Judgment, and she shall die by the Law. Then said Radamentus, let it be so done, lest it happen to you as it did to a Lady in Capadocia, of whom an example is mentioned. Relate the Example, said the Emperess. I shall incontinent, said Radamentus.

### The first Example of Radamentus.

**I**n Capadocia was a Lady who kept a luscious Garden, in which was one of the verriourest Wells in the World, that whosoever should be bit with any venomous beast, wash but in that water, they were immediately cured.

It happened on a day as the Lady was

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walking in her Garden, a gathering of flowers; she espied in a corner of the Garden in the side of a little Rock, a small pill of water running fair and Crystal, abundant more clear than the vertuous Well was, which caused her to imagine, that if the Rock were carve, there would issue a Water more excellent than the Well-water, and said unto the Gardiner, get me a Workman that he may hew this Rock, whereby I may have a precious Fountain here; and I give you charge over it, and to see it done. The Gardiner answered, your will shall be fulfilled. But another time the Lady came into the Garden, and viewed the little Spring; but it appeared not so strong in running as she thought it would: and she said, wherefore runs it not better: her man said, the original Spring was deep in the Earth, and had two ways, the one to the Well, and the other to the Rock; but that to the Well is greater, and by its strength draws more Water to the Well; and therefore its Stream is so little. Then said the Lady, destroy the Well then, for Questionless this Spring will prove the better Water; so the Gardiner dam'd up the vertuous Water, that there was no more seen. And another day the Lady came again into the Garden to see the young Spring,

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Spring, and taste the Water, and it proved very sad and bitter; and having its course through a Tin Mine, whatsoever sick person did bathe in it, it would putrefie their sores, and augment their pain; so that all People did curse the Counsellors that did advise the Lady to destroy the vertuous Well. Then said Radamentus, understand you great Lady what I have said: yes, right well said the Empress: then said he, I will shew you the meaning thereof.

## The Declaration of the Example.

**T**he vertuous Well, great Lady, betokeneth your self, and how that with your vertuous and wise Judgments, you govern the people with equity, that whosoever complaineth to you should have Justice and their sick cases mitigated: and the young Spring so fair and crystal, is your graceless luxurious Daughter, who will cause your Royal name to be blasted, and your vertuous Government dispised, whose actions are bitter, running through a Tin Mine, that is, base and inferiour Carriages, not in Royalty of a Princely Parentage; so that quickly she will break your heart, and reign after you, then all people will curse the Counsellors that

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advised you to let her live : therefore, great Lady, I counsel you while it is time, to cut her off and destroy her, lest the curse of the Empire follow you. Then said the Empress, all that shall not happen, for to morrow I shall sit in Judgment, and she shall dye without fail. When the day was come, the Empress sate in Judgment, and commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt at a Stake, and as she was led through the City in a long smock of Lawn and a branch of Rosemary in her hand, and the Trumpets sounding her doleful Funeral, all the People ran out and wept, crying, alas, alas, the only Daughter of the Empress is leading to death. Then came Deborah the first Mistress passing by, as the young Lady saw her, she bowed her head, as if she said remember me when you come before my Mother ; and when she came to the Empress, and did reverence, the Empress said unto her with a stern countenance, Thou ungrateful and vile woman, how hast thou tutored my Child : I delivered her to thee well and hopeful, and now she is become the viciousst creature that ever a woman bare, surely thou shalt die as strange a death as may be thought on. Then said the Mistress, gracious Lady, the cause why she speaketh



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not the Divine Powers know, and without  
cause it is not; and as for the sin of Fornica-  
tion, we all can testify, that for the space  
of these seven years, we never saw the least  
motion, neither in thought, word, nor deed;  
therefore, gracious Lady, if you do put her  
to death, only for the accusation of Radamen-  
tus, it will happen unto you as it did unto  
the Queen of Syra, who poisoned her Husband  
through the perswasion of one wicked person.  
Then said the Empress shew me that Exam-  
ple? Nay, said the Mistress, except you  
send for your Daughter back, otherwise, she  
may be dead before I make an end, then will  
it be in vain: upon which words the Em-  
press sent for her Daughter again, and com-  
mitted her to prison: then the Mistress began  
as followeth.

### The Example of the first Mistress.

**I**n Syra lived a Queen of great renown,  
and of such excellent beauty, that a fairer  
woman was not in all the World, for which  
many Kings and Princes of Noble Blood  
came a-suiting to her, each man confident he  
should be his: This Queen delighted much  
in seeing Jests and Tourneys; therefore it  
was a day appointed, and they all assembled



## The Seven Wise Mistressest

together to shew their valour before the Queen; amongst whom was Crassus a most valiant Prince, and of such incomparable features and beauty, that his like was not among men. Upon this Prince the Queen fixed her eye all that part of the day; in whose sight he did such worthy acts, that deserved perpetual memory: and to be brief, he had the day of all the Kings, Princes, and Barons that were there; whereby he came off the Field with Trumpets sounding, and victorious Trophies borne before him. On the morrow after the Queen sent for him, and when he came he kneeled before her to have kiss her hand; but she refused, and in a comely deportment tendered her lips: The Prince being somewhat bashful, the Queen gave him farther encouragement, so that by little and little they grew in a wonderful familiarity; and soon after the Queen took him for her Husband, and made him King of Syra with her. He was a wise and gracious Prince, and beloved of all his subjects all people joyed at his Presence, the whole Land sorrowed in his absence; never no Queen loved King better, nor never was Queen more beloved of a King: and it came to pass afterwards that the King of the Parthians lay very sick, whose Son this King was,

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was, and he received a Letter from his Father to make haste unto him, that after his death he should take possession of the Realm; and after a while he was gone, an evil Counsellor in his Court being in love with the Queen, intercepted all the Kings Letters that passed between him and his Queen, and informed the Queen he had married another Lady in his own Country; which raised such jealousy in the Queen, that she tore the ornaments of her head, wringing her hands, saying, O my dear Lord, what evil have I done, what word have I misplac'd, wherein have I offended you, that another should reap the consolation of your love! the King in the mean time wondering he could never receive any Letter from the Queen, lamented, saying, O my dear wherein have I offended, I can never hear how you do, nor how the affairs of our Kingdom stand! All this while the wicked Counsellor intercepted their Letters on both sides to work the destruction of the King; and at last he invented a strong Poyson, and carried the same to the Queen, and told her it was of such a virtue, that if she would cause a King to be made hollow, and put a little of this virtue in it, and send it to the King as a Token; and as oft as ever the King did look upon it, it would  
cause

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cause him to forsake all other women and  
haste home unto her : so the Queen believed  
his wicked Counsel, and was very glad, and  
without the advice of any other she caused a  
Ring to be made as he had said, and put  
therein this Poyson and sent it away to her  
Husband : when the Messenger came before  
him he did him reverence, and presented the  
Ring to him ; the harmless King joyfully  
put it on, saying, 'twas the sweetest present  
he ever received : soon after his finger be-  
gan to swell, and he sent for his Physicians,  
who said his finger was venom'd with the  
strongest Poyson in the World, and said he  
must cut it off, else 'twould venom his whole  
body : Then said the King cut it off, which  
accordingly was done ; then his Arm began  
to swell, and in like manner that was cut off  
to preserve his life. Then the good King  
groaned out this complaint, O thou vile  
Woman, why hast thou done this to him who  
thou wert as dear to as his own soul : thou  
hast attempted that by Poyson which the  
strongest Champion durst not do by Arms : I  
that have won that the greatest glory that  
ever came to Syra, hast thou now destroyed  
with inferiour Poyson, for which thou wilt  
gain reproach of all Nations, and be reviled  
of all Women for returning me malicious  
Poyson

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Poyson for pure inflamed love; but all as I can say is, ingratitude is the grandest crime in the World. O Woman why hast thou done this? Thereupon he sunk down in his Chair, and gave up the Ghost. Then the Messenger hastened home and told the Queen what had happened by the King, and that all the Counsellors had told her of the King was false: then the Queen fell a weeping and wringing her hands, saying, O what have I done, what have I done: I have by the advice of an evil Counsellor slain my dear Husband the King! O cursed Traytor, would to God I had ne'er received thy wicked Counsel; but since I embraced thy hellish advice, with this hand that first handled the cursed King I will be revenged on my self, and so took a knife and thrust it into her Breast, and so ended her life. Then said the Mistress to the Empress, understand you what I have said? Yes, right well said the Empress, you have shewed me a good Example; without doubt this day my Daughter shall not die. Then said the Mistress, if you do so, you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your Daughters life this day for my sake.

The



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### The second complaint of Radamentus.

**W**hen Radamentus understood the Princess had obtained Pardon through the means of Hallicuja the wise Mistress, he retired to his Chamber, and seemed to grieve and lament extraordinarily; but alas it was nothing but falshood and deceit; so that he refused to come to Counsel, whereat the Empress was much troubled, and thereupon sent for him, and demanded the cause of his grief, and the reason wherefore he did not attend to Counsel: who answered, Great Lady, what greater pain can there be to a man, than when he is reviled of every vulgar Tongue undeservedly: for all People know I am your assistant in the Empire, and think I am at the helm of justice, where I do rather more support wickedness than equity, and maintain vice, where I should vertue; since of late there hath been whoredom and debauchery committed in the very Court, and the Emperresses own Daughter did it: what scandal is this that I shall lye under, beside your Royal Person will be defamed, and the honour of your Kingdom the object of the World? for you abstain Justice from being executed upon that vile wretch your



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your cursed Daughter, so that she lieth to the ruine of the Empire : therefore it shall happen to you as it did to the Queen of Pirus and her Daughter. The Empress said, I pray you shew me that Example : why, said Radamentus, let me shew you never so many, it availeth not ; nevertheless I shall shew you this, which is as followeth.

### The second Example of Radamentus.

**I**n Pirus reigned a vertuous Queen, her Husband being dead, she had one only Daughter whom she tendered above her life ; this Daughter grew a pace crafty and cunning and often conversed with Sorcerers, to whom she complained there was but one Nobleman which hindered her from having her will and liberty : said the Sorcerer, I'll teach you a way to betray his life, and then you may do well enough with your mother. Pray shew me that way said she : that I will do said the Sorcerer, that is this :

When he is walking in the Garden, go you to him, and if he sit down, sit you by him, 'twill be a provocation to move his spirit, and as he doth proceed, then give him encouragement ; if he refuse you, cry out he has ravisht you : So this impudent wretch late

## The Seven Wise Mirkesses.

face by this Nobleman, and smiter upon him and smote him with the palm of her hand upon the Cheek, and said, come let us solace our selves in the bosom of love untill the dark evening: Then said the Lord, Great Lady, excuse me, for I am not furnished with so much confidence as to deflower the Pearl of our Land. At which words this Lady tore her locks down about her shoulders, and cryed out, alas, alas, what shall I do! the Queen her Mother being in the Window heard the cry, and looking out, espied her daughter in the Garden crying and wringing her hands; she sent down her Lords to know the matter; and he said, this man, meaning the harmful Lord, hath constrained me by force under ponder Trees, and he hath deflowered me of my Virginitie: The Queen hearing this said, surely he shall die: Then said the Words, it is good that you hear him before you put him to death: Nay, said the Queen, I have heard my Daughter, what need we any further witness, I will believe her Testimony above all the Worlds; and thereupon commanded the Lord to be led away and put to death, which accordingly was done. This Lord was the uprightest Man and greatest Counsellor the Queen had; from this time forth he always sought the destruction of her mother;

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Mother: and thus she began, Great Prince  
cells and Mother, through my obedience and  
diligent care I bear to you, I would wish  
you to speak not unto every mean Subject  
when they come for Justice, but that I be-  
tween you and them may deliver their mes-  
sage, for too much familiarity will breed  
contempt; therefore the Queen reposing so  
much confidence in her Daughter, thought all  
for good whatsoever she did do; and there-  
upon set forth a Proclamation, that all per-  
sons whatsoever having business at the  
Court, should address themselves to her  
Daughter; who always sitting in an en-  
ward Chamber, as People came to her, she  
seemed very mild, amiable and Countess,  
so through her cunning and dissimulation all  
people took affections to her, and she would  
say to them, my Mother is very rash being  
ancient; but if you will take me for your  
Sovereign, I'll do you Justice according to  
the due administration of the Law: at which  
words they were all very joyful, and pro-  
mised faithfully to perform it; but said she  
raise your army, stand in your own defence,  
and plead your Subsidies and heavy bur-  
thens are too weighty for you to bear: this  
do till you hear from me: so the rude mul-  
titude did as this Imp had advis'd them.  
Then

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Then away she went to her Mother and acquainted her there was a factious people had rebell'd, and it were good to prevent them in time, least they should grow too populous; so the Queen gave her the Supreme Authority, in granting Commissions to raise an Army; so when she had got the Seal, she told her Mother she must have a great quantity of Gold to pay them: Then the Queen delivered two hundred thousand marks of Gold, and having got this Money, she hastened with it all away to her factious Crew; and there paid them all with her Mothers own Treasure, and gave them Commissions under her own Seal, that all the rest of the Subjects were in a maze; for seeing their Commissions under the Queens Seal all lay still, and not one moved for the Queen, thinking it had been no Rebellion: at last this new Army advanced towards the Court, and being come, this wicked Witch, the Queens Daughter, hastened to her Mother, and told her that she by her fair speeches had allwaged the fury of the People, and brought them thither to beg their pardon, which she desired the Queen to grant them; she being always betrayed through her subtle words, condemned; and as she was going out to sign their Pardons, and conducted by her Daughter,



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ter, she passed over a boarded Alley, where underneath was a Room and Cauldron of boyling Oyl, that this wicked Daughter had provided, with a board whereon her Mother was to tread, tilting up, the Queen fell in, and thereby was destroy'd: And after was this wicked Wretch proclaimed Queen, that through lascivious living and cruel Tyranny all nations spighted her, and her own Subjects hated her, that as she was coming through the City of Combro, a Butchers man dasht out her brains with his Cleaver: The end of a Tyrant.

And Radamentus said to the Emperess, understand ye what I have said: and the Emperess said right well, you have shew'd me a good example; therefore to prevent these evils that they shall not happen to me, this day my Daughter shall die: And the second time she sat in Judgment, and commanded her Daughter to be led away to the place of execution; and as she was going, the second Mistress addressed her self to the Emperess, doing her reverence, and said, O great Lady, if you will thus slay your Daughter for the words of Radamentus, it shall happen worse to you then it did to the Lady of Barbra and her Lyon. The Emperess said good Mistress shew me that Example, O great Lady,



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Lady, I shall not do it, except you call your Daughter back again until it be told, and if it does not turn your minde, your will be fulfilled afterwards.

## The Example of the second Mistress.

**U**PON a time there was a Lady and her Husband which designed a long Voyage by Sea, but the wind and weather proving contrary, they were driven to great distresses, and constrained to lye a tedious while at Sea, insomuch that all their provision was spent; then they continued a whole fortnight without any kinde of food, and when nature could not subsist no longer, they threw dice for their lives who should be kill'd first, to make meat for their fellows, so they eat one another in order as they began, until all were eat; so this poor Lady and her Husband with force of nature and pure love hindred from killing each other: Then they resolv'd to dye together, and so sowed themselves in one Carpet, and laid them down upon the Deck, saying, the great God of Heaven and Earth help them, and by that time they were lull'd asleep by the rocking of the Waves, there chanced to come upon the Deck a great Gullin, that's half an Eagle,

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gle, and half a Lyon, so that 'tis neither bird nor beast, but a Creature as strong as a Horse, and took up the Carpet in her claws with the Lady and her Husband as a prey for her young ones, and carried them into a strange Island, inhabited with Lyons, Bears, Wolves, and such like Beasts: When the Griffin had brought them into his nest, he and his young began to peck at the Carpet, with which they awaked the Lady and her Husband, who being a stout Hero opened the Carpet, and espied Land, and having his sword with him, came out and fought a desperate fight with the Griffin, and slew him and all his young. How to get off this Island they did not know, but in wandering up and down the man dyed, and then the poor Lady was alone, and comforted by none but God above; so wandering about the Wilderness she chanced to meet a mighty he Lyon, whose roaring seem'd to her like claps of thunder: then when she saw him she fell to the ground, saying, O great Jehovah, who holdeth the power of all creatures in thy hands, have mercy upon me. So she drew near unto him, and discovered that he halted, and the Lyon groaned towards her, as thought to have some help: so she venterd to him, and took up his foot, and therein was a great thorn;

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and the Lion patiently holding up his Foot  
 she lay down: which having done the Lion  
 fastened upon her, and licked her, and in his  
 nature shewed as great love and kindness to  
 her as ever humane nature could: insomuch  
 that he led her to his Den, where she conti-  
 nued for a long season, feeding upon nothing  
 but what preys the Lyon had brought her,  
 and which way soever she walked, the Lyon  
 would attend upon her, and preserve her from  
 all other savage beasts. At last as she was  
 mourning to her self, deplozing her condition  
 in living in such obscurity in a Foreign  
 Countrey, whose daily companion was but  
 a savage Beast, her mind yearning after her  
 own habitation, she thus complained, O how  
 hath fortune frowned on me, that I am dri-  
 ven out from among all humane knowledge,  
 and am glad to take my living with the Beast  
 of the Field. As she thus complained to her  
 self, the Devil chanced to appear unto her,  
 and demanded the cause of her complaint,  
 who told him all as you have heard. Then  
 said he to her, What wilt thou give and I'll  
 provide a Ship shall carry thee home to thy  
 own Countrey: she answered, half her Estate.  
 Nay, said the Devil, if thou wilt give me  
 thy Soul at the term of twelve years, I'll  
 let thee in thy own Country, and thou shalt  
 live

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live and flourish so long? God forbid, said the Lady, I'll first end my wretched life in this solitary Island. Why then, said the Devil, I'll make this bargain with ye, that if you can abstain from sleeping all the time of our Voyage, which shall be but three days, I'll have nothing to do with your Soul, if you sleep I'll have it, as I have said: and upon this bargain the Lady ventured, provided she might have her Lyon with her: so 'twas concluded, and a brave Ship came and took in the Lady and her Lyon: when she lay down the Lyon lay by her, and if she slumbered the Lyon would touch her with his paw: by which means he kept her awake all the voyage, until she landed in her own Country; and being come to her Fathers house, she knocked at the Gate: then the Porter coming with all speed, opened the Gate, and saw it was a Beggar, frowningly he shut it again, saying, Here's nothing for you; then she bounced at the Gate again, and asked the Porter if such a Knight lived there, meaning her Father, and he said yes, then said she, pray deliver this piece of Ring unto him. Now this Ring was it she brake betwixt her Father and she, at her departure out of the Land: then the Porter delivered the Ring to his Master, saying, The Beg-



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ger woman at the Gate willed me to deliver this piece of Ring unto you. When the Knight saw the Ring he fell down in a swoond, but when he was revived he said, call her in, for she is my only Daughter, whom I thought was dead. Then said the Porter, I dare not call her in, for there is a mighty be-Lyon with her, though it be, said the Knight, call her in; then said the Porter, you are to come in, but leave your Lion out: no, said the Lady, my Lyon walketh where I go, and where he is not, there will I not be; and when she came to her Father, she fell down on her knees and wept: her father took her up in his arms and kist her, weeping as fast, and after he clothed her in Purple, and plac'd her by him in a chair, and demanded the relation of her Travels, who declared unto him all that happened, and how the Lion had saved her life, and was the greatest comfort she had in the Wilderness. It chanced afterwards that as the Knight was going into his Wood to view his young Horses, he met with a wild Boar, with whom he fell in combat with. The Lyon loved the Old Knight, and by accident walking under the pale side he sented the Boar, and as the Lyon ran toward the place where the Boar was, the Steward espied him, and he ran into the Palace,



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Palace, and cryed out, the Lyon is running after my Master to destroy him. When the Lady sent after him ten of her servants, who met the Lyon with his mouth all bloody, and they ran back and told the Lady the Lyon had destroyed her aged Father. Then said the Lady, O woe is me that ever I was born, that have brought a Lyon from far to destroy my own Father; therefore she commanded her servants to slay the Lyon, which no sooner was done but her Father come in, and said, O I have met with a wild Boar, with whom I fought, and there came in the Lyon to my aid, and slew the Boar, so saved my life, else I had dyed by the Boar. When the Lady heard this, O how she wept and wyng her hands, saying, For the words of a wicked Steward, I have slain my good Lyon, who hath saved both my life and my Fathers, cursed be the time I was advised by him.

Then said the Mistress, understand you what I have said: yes, right well, said the Empress, you have shewed me a good example of a bad advise, which caused the Lady to slay so good a Lyon, surely I be ware of such bad advice, my Daughter shall not dye this day. The Mistress said, if you do so you will do well, therefore I commit you to God, and stand obliged to your grace for sa-

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bing your Daughter this day for my sake.

The third Complaint of Radamentus.

**W**hen Radamentus perceived the young Princeſs was not dead, he kept his Chamber, and tore his hair, grieving very much, and ſaying, the State of the Empire lies groaning under the ſcandal of all Nations, and reputed as the very ſcorch and ſcum of baſeneſs; and as he was thus complaining, his attendants hearing him, went and imparted it to the Empreſs, and ſhe went to him and aſked the cauſe of his lamentation, who answered, O great Lady, how can I otherwiſe chule, knowing ſo great a crime that lyes upon the Empire, through the deboiſt and laſcivious actions of your graceleſs Daughter, and yet cannot have Juſtice executed upon her, whereby we may waſh away the ſtain that reſts upon your honour and my reputation, the world knowing I am your aſſiſtant in the Government; and ſeing there is no more reſpect and obſerving of the Laws then there is, I have juſt cauſe to leave your Realm, and ſuffer you to plunge your ſelf in this deluge of ignorance, but that the love I bear to you, and your good Subjects doth prohibit me from it; and you know great Lady, if I ſhould

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depart and leave you to your self through your weaknes in believing old fabulous stories, it would tend to your utter ruine and destruction. Then said the Emperess, Most grave Lord and Councellor, pass by your sorrow and lamentation at this time, and I shall never fail you of your request hereafter, but be advised by you: Then said Radamentus, pray God you may, else I fear it will happen to you as it did to the Lady and her Cat in the Kingdom of Utergo, who tendered her Cat as she did her own life, till at last the Cat eat her Ladies Throat. I pray ye, said the Emperess, shew me that Example, that I shall gladly do, said Radamentus, for the furtherance of your knowledge, and it is this as followeth.

### The third Example of Radamentus.

In the Kingdom of Utergo there lived a Lady who had but one only Daughter, whom she loved above her own eyes, and hearing there was a very learned woman, and one of great repute, lived not far from her own Court, to whom she put her Daughter to be brought up, and instructed in all Arts and learning, and it proved that this learned woman was very skillful indeed, for  
He

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She was the greatest Magician in all that Land, though unknown to the Lady, so that instead of teaching the Child natural Philosophy, she taught her all the whole art of Necromancy, and at the end of seven years she learnt her how to transform her self into the likeness of a Cat: and upon a time the Lady sent for this learned woman to come to her and bring her Daughter with her, for to see how she had improved her self in learning, and being come the Lady asked her Daughter three questions: First, what was most prone to nature when it was satisfied: she answered ease, for when the Belly is full, the bones desire rest. Secondly, how far it was to the bottom of the Sea: she answered, a stones throw. Thirdly, she asked her how long the Sun and Moon were going round the world: she answered four and twenty hours: then said the Lady, you have answered me well, doubtless thou wilt prove a cunning woman: then she walked in her Parlour, and shewed the Mistress what a delicate and fine Cat she had, and the Mistress said, of a truth, it is a brave Cat; but after I return home I will present you with the finest Cat that ever was seen, for she will wait at the Table, and can interpret Riddles, resolving Answers and Questions, so that there is not  
the



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the like of her in all the World. Then said the Lady, pray let me have that Cat; that I shall not do, said she, except you suffer your Daughter to be with me one seven years more, then shall I present you with the Cat; the Lady very willingly gave consent thereunto, rendring great thanks: so the learned Woman took leave, and departed away with her young Disciple, and when she came home, she told her, that if she would ad her part, she would teach her how she might enjoy all the pleasure the World did afford, and none was more ready to learn then she was. Then said the Magician, you must transform your self to the likeness of a Cat, and I will present you to your Mother, to which they both accorded: then the Magician took her, and hasted away to the Lady, and presented her the Cat, being of four distinct colours, black, red, green, and yellow: Then said the Lady, this is the finest Cat that ever I saw, and took it into her lap, feeding it with white bread and milk, and would never sit down to meat but her Cat must be at her elbow; so the Magician took her leave again, and the Lady gave her great thanks, and so departed: soon after this the Cat began to play her pranks, for there was a maid living in the house, whose carriage was civil,  
and



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and conversation honest, and a faithful Servant all days of her life; this Cat had power to open any lock, and shut it again, so she would open the Ladies Cabinet, and take out money, and lay it in the way where she might find it, sometime in the Garden, sometime in the Street, and the Lady still missing her money, and having no suspicion on the maid in the least, wondered what should become of it; at last she lost her Bracelet out of her Closet, which the Cat had took and laid a mile from the House, where the Maid should come along; so the Maid when she had found it, little thought of her Ladies Bracelet, which oftentimes had been inquired for, she put it up in her Trunk; and after upon a time, as the Maid was taking out Cloaths, her Lady stood by her, and it chanced that the Bracelet fell beside the trunk, and the Cat snapt it up in her paws, and leapt upon the Ladies lap: when the Lady saw it she cried out, O thou graceless creature, I bless the Lord I have found thee out, have I kept thee so many years, and intrusted thee with all I had in the World, and never had the least suspicion of thee; God knows what thou hast robb'd me of, in thy time. O thou wicked wretch! now thou shalt die the shamefullest death as may be thought

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

thought on. Then said the Maid, what have I done; I never offended you in thought, word, nor deed, neither ever wronged you in all my life hitherto. A villain, said the Lady, is not this my Bracelet, I have lost for above this half year, and here I have found it in thy Trunk. God knows what thou hast hid of me of besides, for I have lost a great deal of money; then she call'd more company in and searched her Trunk further, and found many pieces of Money, which she knew by the marks; and when they saw that, they apprehended her, and sent her to Prison for all days of her life; so the Lady continued her love towards the Cat, and would never eat of any dainties at her Table before she had cut her Cat the first bit; at last it happened that she sat at Dinner and forgot to carve first to her Cat, wherefore she leapt to the Ladies face and caught her by the throat, that had it not been for the help of some at the Table, the Cat had kill'd her. Then said the Lady, He keep this Cat no longer; then it is good said her friends to destroy her. No, said she, for the sake of the learned Mistress which gave her me; then she returned her back from whence she came, and desired to have her Daughter home; when her Daughter came she took her in her arms.

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

arms and kissed her, and cause her to lye in bed with her every night, and in token of a motherly love to a Child, he gave her a Ring off her finger out of love to wear, which Ring she had kept for many years; and it happened after that this Daughter proceeded in her wicked art of Witchcraft still, and could not break from it: So there was a Mill of the Ladies not far from the House, and every night this Daughter when her Mother was asleep, would go with others of her rabble, and at dead time of the night set the Mill a going, ripping the bags, and throwing all the Coyn about the floor, at which the Miller wondered greatly, and complained on the morrow to the Lady and many others, saying, his Mill was haunted by evil spirits, doing great mischief, that he was like to be undone; and they counselled him to watch up one night with a good sword and a light to see what it was; and about midnight there came in at the Window a great Cat to his thinking, by and by another and another, till they were half a dozen, spitting and mawling like Devils, and their eyes shining like coles of fire; then the Miller struck at them, and they flew at his Face, and in short time destroyed him: On the morrow the Lady sent to the Mill to see how the Miller fared, and they

## The Seven Wise Mistresses:

they found him dead, with his face and throat  
tore all to pieces: the next night another  
watch'd, and on the morrow they went to see  
how he sped, and they found him in the same  
condition; then they all marvelled greatly,  
so that none would live in that Mill. At last  
there came a stout fellow, and he would un-  
dertake to lye in the Mill all night if the  
Lady would give him the Mill, she consented,  
and away goes the fellow, with a great sword  
and Candle, and entered the Mill; so about  
the old hour he heard the Mill at work to the  
purpose; so he took his sword and Candle  
in his hand, and went down out of his Cham-  
ber to see what guests he had got, and when he  
came into the Mill he saw nothing, but the  
Mill stood still, and as soon as he had entered  
his Chamber the Mill was at it again as  
hard as it was before; then he ran back a-  
gain with his sword drawn, and there he be-  
held six great Cats and one little one, with  
such sparkling eyes glearing upon him, that  
he ne'er saw the like before; whereupon he  
struck at them, and they leapt at his face and  
on every side of him, that he was faine to lay  
about him lustily to defend himself; at last  
he worsted two, and they fled through the  
Window, and the rest fought so furiously, that  
they put him almost out of breath, but in the  
end



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

and they all fled through the Window, and he following close, smote the last and cut off her fore-foot; and so when day came, he went to look for the foot; and it proved to be a hand with a fair Ring upon the Finger; when he saw that, then he knew they were Witches; so took on him little, and went home to the Lady; who asked him how it fared with him. He said he was never so hard put to it in his life; how so, said the Lady: why said he, there came seven Cats, and set the Mill to work as well as I could, and if I had not defended my self stoutly, I had been slain by them, but in the end I made them fly; and as the last went through the Window, I cut off her fore-foot; look here it is: When the Lady saw that, she knew the hand by the Ring; and she remembered that night, when she awak'd she felt her Daughter come into the bed all in a sweat, and very cold; with this thought she was stricken with a fear, that the drops of sweat trickled down her face; so she went to the bed-side, and asked her Daughter how she did: who said, I am not well, pray let me alone: her Mother said, let me feel your hand, how your pulses beat, and she gave her the right hand, keeping the other arm in the bed; and her mother said, give me the other hand; and she would not; then her Mo-

ther

## The Seven Wise Mistrisles.

Her went to the by force, and there was don hand; then her Mother knew what Cat Head had kept before, and said thou shalt die by the Law before thou dost any more mischief. A graceless Villain; what shame hast thou brought upon me for having such a wicked Child; so she was sentenced to be burnt at a Stake, and as she was led to execution, she confessed how she had stole the money and where it was let, and said it where the Maid found it, so to be accus'd of theft and hang'd unjustly; but at last she was burnt to ashes at a Stake, and the innocent Maid redeemed out of Prison.

Now said Radamentus, understand you what I have said? yes, right well, said the Emperess; then said Radamentus I will shew you the declaration thereof.

### The Declaration of the Examples

Then Radamentus said to the Emperess Great Lady, I fear this will happen to you and your Daughter as it did to this Lady; who for the love of her only Daughter let her to School to be instructed in various learning; and she was infected by a Villain in all the arts of Procreancy; in the first place, she rob'd her mother, and caus'd an innocent Maid to father the theft; Secondly,

## The Seven Wife Mistresses

in her filthy transformation, had she not been prevented: she had cut her Mothers Throat: thirdly, her horrid murder in the Mill: fourthly, the disgrace and shame brought upon her Mother and Family: and fifthly, the utter ruine and destruction she brought upon her own soul: and in the same manner, do you labour to preserve your Daughter, and suffer her to reign in all her filthy and detestable ways, till such time the triumph of all things breaks out, then be sure you will receive utter shame and disgrace, even to the ruine of your self and the whole Empire: therefore I advise you to cut her off while she is in the bud, lest she prove in the end to be a hard tree, and there is no cutting down of her. The Emperess said, you have shewed me a good example, the Lady giving her Daughter too much liberty, afterwards would have cut her Mothers Throat, and turned both Witch, Thief and Murderer: without doubt my Daughter shall not serve me so; and on the morrow she commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt, who obey'd her command in all haste: as she was led through the streets, attired in her winding sheet, her Bible under her arm, and the Trumpets sounding out her doleful knell, all the people cry'd out, alas, alas, the only Daugh-

## The Seven Wise Mistresses

Daughter of the Emperour is leading to execution, and as they led her, the third Mistress named Mardula came riding by; and as the Princess saw her, she bowed her head to her, as much as to say, remember me; all the people cry'd out, saying, O good Mistress make haste and by your famous wisdom save your Disciple: so away she posted, and came before the Emperour, doing her reverence, and the Emperour said, O thou ungrateful Traytor, thy coming availeth thee nothing, for thou shalt dye as bad a death as my wretched Daughter, and I long till I be avenged on thee and all thy fellows. Then said the Mistress, I thought when I came, to have been better treated, and not to be upbraided in this kind as I am. The Emperour said, do you not deserve death, when as I delivered you my Daughter well to be instructed in serious learning, and you have delivered her again unto me dumb and graceless, whose lascivious actions sound all over the Empire: then said the Mistress, in that you say she is dumb, I commit that to God, for he maketh the dumb to speak and the deaf to hear: and as you say she is a lascivious creature, I thinke would know if the eye of man ever saw, or tongue can justifie any such thing: wherefore gracious Heavie, if you put your Daugh-



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

ter to death thus hastily for the words of one man, it will happen to you as it did to a Knight and his Godson, which is mentioned in an Example. The Emperors said, pray shew me that example, and the Mistress said, that I shall not do, but if you will cause your Daughter to be brought back again from death, then shall I gladly shew it you, which in time to come you will say it is a true one. When the Emperors commanded her Daughter to be brought back and put in Prison: and the Mistresses began as followeth.

### The Example of the third Mistress.

**I**T came to pass upon a time, that as a Knight was travelling through a strange Countrey, he chanced to lose his way in a wood, and could neither discover Churches nor Towns, the night being so dark, and he a stranger knew not what to do, nor whether to go; and as he was complaining to himself, a Mandarin issued through the Thickets, bearing his complaint, and demanded the cause of it. O friend, said the Knight, I am a stranger to the Countrey, and I have lost my way, and know not whether to go for accommodations for me and my Horse, which is almost lost in the brambles of this Wood.

## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

The man said, Sir Knight, it is far to any Inn, and the ways are bad, but if you please to go with me, I shall bring you to my Cottage, and give you the best accommodation it doth yield. The Knight courteously returned him thanks, and went along with him, and when he came home, he shewed the Knight a Chamber, and provided for his Horse: but the Knight through discontent of his Journey did not go to bed, but sat up, and about midnight he heard a great cry in the house, he being in such a lone house began to fear some danger might ensue, and so knocked for to know what that cry did mean; and the Maid answered, that her Mistress was in Travail, and the Midwife was with her. This Knight being skill'd in Astrology, went down to see how the Planets did serve, it being a bright Star-light night, and he saw a bad Planet going down, and a good one rising; signifying, if the Child was born under that, his Fortune was to be hanged; therefore he called the Maid and bid her tell the Midwife to hold her hand one quarter of an hour, and the Child would be born to good fortune: the Maid came out again and told him, that it could not possibly be, then he bid her go in again, and tell the Midwife to stay but one half quarter

# The Seven Wile Murtherers.



an hour, and the Child should be born to good  
fortune, she came out again, and brought him  
word, that her Dame was delivered of a son-  
ly Boy, which was under the bad Planet;  
then the Knight went in and said nothing  
concerning the birth of the Child: but on  
the morrow the Father of it came to him,  
saying, Sir, since you have vouchsafed to  
lodge in my house all night, be pleased to  
honour me so far as to name my Child, who  
answered, that I shall gladly do. And when  
the day was come he named the Child, and  
wrote in a bit of Parchment his destiny, with  
a charge also, that he should pray to God  
continually to acquit him from that bad  
fortune,

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

fortune, so he sealed it up in a piece of Wax, and tyed it about his neck with a Silk string, charging his Father and all his friends not to untye the string to read what it was, till such time the Child was able to read it himself, desiring them to keep him at School very carefully, whereby he may attain to that knowledge as to read the writing perfectly himself; and thanking the Father for the favour done him, took his leave, and so departed. When the Child was grown up and fit to be instructed, he was put to School, and very carefully attended till he was ten years of age, at which time he was capable to read the writing that was about his Neck: and upon a time as he was by himself, he took it off his neck, and opened it, and read it, wherein he found his destiny written in these words, My good Child, serve God, and pray to him continually to pass this fate over thee, else thy fortune is to be hanged. When the Child had read this, he lifted up his eyes to Heaven and begg'd a blessing from the Lord, and went home very sad and melancholly, and desired of his Father to give him one new suit of Cloaths, and a little Money in his Pocket, and his blessing: his Father asked him the reason of his request: then said the Child, pray give it me, for I



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.



will go seek my fortune; his Father did according as the Child required, so he took leave of his Friends, and parted from his Father. Well, go, said he, and my blessing with thee; so the Boy travelled into a strange Countrey, still praying to God to acquit him of that unhappy fortune to which he was predestined to; and at last he came to a Knights house, and required a service, the Knight asked him what he could do, he said, I sweep your Hall, draw Beer, and run upon your errands, and what other service I am able to do. The Knight saw him a hopeful boy, and very willingly entertained him, and he proved marvellous careful and diligent in what-  
soever

The Seven Wise Mistresses.

forever he took in hand, and at all spare times he would be upon his knees at prayers, desiring God to pass that unhappy fate over him, The Knight observing this, soon after plac'd him Under-Buttler, and there he continued in the same rule, praying to God continually, whereby the Knight had a great discerning eye on him. In this place he had not been many years, but the head-Buttler dyed, and the Knight put him in his place, and being there he was obedient to his Master, courteous to his fellow servants, and pleasing to all, but the Baker and the Brewer murmured greatly, how may this be, yonder fellow was taken up as a poor beggar boy at the door but the other day, and first he was Under-Buttler, now he is Head-Buttler, what will he come to : but this pass on, he grew in favour still, and being a Schollar, his Master made him Under-Steward, which place he discharged with great trust and faithfulness ; then his two adversaries murmured ten times more, yet he grew in favour more still with the Knight, till at last the Head-Steward dyed ; then he was prefer'd in that place, and from that time forwards his adversaries sought his destruction ; yet when he was in this place, he never waxed proud nor ambitious, but always trusty, humble, meek, and lowly,

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

lowly, and when he had served in the place of head Stewardship the space of five years, he had a mind to go to his own Country, and therefore delivered up all his accounts just and square, he asked leave of the Knight who granted his request very willingly, and lent him a Horse, and gave him great store of money to go with, saying, Thou hast been a just and faithful servant to me, go, and my best word with thee; and when his horse was tyed at the door, and he ready to depart, there came to him the Baker and the Brewer, discreetly to take their leaves of him, saying they must drink with him before parting, and as he was drinking with one in the Cellar, the other opened his Portmantle, and put therein a great gilt Bowl, and so shut it again: then he went and drank with him, and so departed; but he had not been gone above a mile, but these two fellows made inquisition for the Bowl, and the Knight asked who should have it; who should, said they, but your trusty friend and servant, that is newly gone, who hath been as very a thief as ever breathed since he came to you, and has robb'd you daily, though you would not believe it; therefore you will not believe this except you saw it, therefore pray ride along with us, and we'll bring him back again,

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gain, and that you shall see he has the Bowl : so the Knight too after him, and overtook him, and praid him to come back, for he had a little business with him : so when he came, they searched his Portmantle, and found the Bowl : when the Knight saw that, he admitted it, and said, O thou wicked wretch, I have been told how thou hast rob'd me daily, and impoverished my Estate, but I would never believe it, now I see it plainly with my eyes, for which fact thou shalt be hanged at the Gallows.

The young man stood up, and said, of this fact I am innocent, and thou eternal God, who holdest the secrets of all mens hearts in thy hands, knows that I am guiltless, send me justice now, O great Lord of Heaven and Earth, that thy everlasting truth may take place, and this hidden treachery be brought to light. And as they were leading him away to prison, he said, Well, now I perceive that Fortune is a Fortune, let the world go how it will; and his Father hearing him, said, what mean you by that? and he said, when my Mother was in Travail of me, there was a strange Knight lodged in the house, and forswore my destiny by his art in the Planets, and at the request of my Father he was my God-father, and then writ in a little piece



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

piece of Parchment my sad fate in these words following; My good child, serve God, and pray continually that thy sad fate may pass over thee, for thy fortune is to be hanged; and he sealed it up in wax, and tyed it with a silk string, and put it about my neck, charging my Father, that no one should read it till I was capable to read it my self, wherefore I came to travel, and also obeying the words, and praying continually to God to escape it, I see it doth follow me undeserued, as you now see. The Knight hearing this, demanded to see the piece of writing, which specified his destiny, and he took the string from about his neck: and gave it the Knight, who as soon as he saw it, he said, O the mercy of the eternal God of Heaven, whose love to his servants is incomprehensible, this is my own hand-writing; I writ thy destiny, and I am thy God-father, O bring him back again, let us examine the cause better; then he called the two false accusers before him, and strictly examined each of them, threatening sad punishment if they would not confess, and at last they confess it were they stole the Cup, and put it in his Portmanteau; for which they were both hanged, and the young man saved: And then said the Mistress, understand you what I have said: yes, righte

*Damne stretch*  
The Seven Wise Mistresses

right well, said the Emperors. Now I do  
perceive that very often the wicked com-  
mitted the fact, and the innocent are Con-  
demned. You have shewed me a good exam-  
ple, therefore my Daughter shall not dye.  
Great Lady, said the Mistress, if you do so,  
you will do well, and I thank ye for sparing  
your Daughter this day for my sake, and  
therefore to God I commend you.

The fourth Complaint of Radamentus.

**W**hen Radamentus heard the young  
Princess was not dead, but rather  
pardoned, he walked up and down the Gar-  
den like a man bereaved of his wits, and  
made great lamentation; the noise thereof  
came to the Emperors ear, and she went in all  
haste to him, and comforted him, saying, My  
grave Lord and Counsellor, why make you  
this moan? it becometh not a man, especial-  
ly such as you are, so rarely well dignified  
in wisdom and discretion, to groan out such  
sad complaints? A Madam, said Rada-  
mentus, why should you tell me so, will it  
make a stone move, or a wall of brass speak,  
to see that your judgment is so much stum-  
bled, as not to be advised by my grave Coun-  
sell, knowing no man ought to tell you  
even

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then my self, that you suffer such pestilential  
fevers to remain not qualified nor appea-  
sed: And that I had dyed before I had been  
slaved to come into these parts, for what ho-  
nour or reputation I ever gained formerly,  
I shall now receive ten times as much  
shame and dishonour: but I fear it will hap-  
pen to you as it did unto a Lady in Thebais  
with her Deer; which is mentioned in the  
example. Then said the Empress, I pray  
them me that example for my learning, that  
I may be the better instructed. If I should,  
said Radamentus, it would avail nothing, for  
I shewed you one yesterday last, and it came  
to no effect: nevertheless I shall shew you  
this, which is as followeth.

### The fourth Example of Radamentus.

**S**ometime in Rome there lived a great  
Lady which had a famous Park of Deer,  
that a woodcock was not in all the Land: she  
had also a very gallant Hound, which was  
presented to her by the best Huntsman in the  
world: and this Lady delighting much in  
hunting, appointed a day for the trial of this  
brave Dog: and when the day was come they  
couzed a Hunt, and followed the Chase, up  
the Hills, down the Valley, through the Woods,

kety,

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

hunts, Hakes, and Hogs, the like hunting  
he're was known in that part of the World,  
for the Dog hunted upon hot scent seven days  
together, till all the followers were tyred  
both foot and horse, and left the whole Game  
to the Dog, yet still the Buck maintained  
his ground, and the dog his Chace, through-  
out the Kingdom of Thesaly three hundred  
myle an end; the Lady and her Noble Ba-  
rens gave off all for lost, some of them cryed,  
we shall never see the Buck again, said the  
Lady, I shall never have my Dog again:  
and when they had yielded all as lost, there  
came a Letter from the King of Egypt, be-  
knowing her so delightful in Hunting, and  
the tenure of it was, that there came a Buck  
chased by a Dog, through some part of his  
Dominions, and that they were come into  
the Kingdom of Thesaly: The Lady hear-  
ing this, said doubtless, this Dog and this  
Buck by all description should be mine, and  
as she was thus musing, the Keeper brought  
in word that the Buck and Dog was come;  
then the Lady rejoiced and ran into the  
Park to see the Buck and Dog, and there  
they found the Buck leapt just over the wall  
and fell down, and the dog ran to the wall,  
and he fell down, only wearied, but not to  
death: then said the Keeper, this Buck



## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

is the best runner in all Thesaly; and the Lady said, this Dog is the best in all the world, and therefore all the Nobles and Barons that ever came there a hunting, praised the Dog, and loved him wonderfully. Now there was an observation on this Dog, for he loved the Park ever after, and the same Buck he before chased above all others; so that he was observ'd to go every night about midnight, to defend the Deer from any ravenous beast which should chance to come, as Wolves or such like Creatures, and this did he constantly upon his own accord, so that such a Dog was never heard of before. And it chanced after, that the same Huntsman which gave the Lady this brave Dog, presented her with another Wolf-dog, young and tender, and of a most curious shape and form, which also won the affections of the Lady marvellously, so that she loved him as she lov'd her life; and whosoever should tell her that this Wolf-dog would prove the better Counter, she would reioyce, and give them great rewards, so that her love to the Hound began to decline, for he was wont to quarrel with her young Dog, being of two contrary natures, so which she would kick him and much reject him; but the young dog grew apace well formed, fair and comely.

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.



Not far from the Court lived seven wise Mistresses, whom he sent for to pass their judgements upon this young dog, what they thought of him? And the first said, it was the fairest dog that ever she saw, and it would make a good Courser; then the second said, it was the comeliest dog that ever she saw, and he would make a stately keeper; the third said, it was the tallest dog that ever she saw, and would be fit for a Princely Game; the fourth said, it was the strongest dog that ever she saw, and would be a brave companion in a Forrest; the fifth said, it was the furiosest dog that ever she saw, and was fit to keep a treasury; the sixth said, it was a dog in her  
F
judge

## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

judgment exceeded all others; and the scribe said, it was a dog, if well taught and preserved, would parallel the whole world for his equal. Then said the Lady, I thank you all for your great accommodations you give of my dog; therefore I shall prize him as I do the greatest Jewel I have; but I have an excellent Hound besides, which on his own accord doth watch my Deer every night, and preserve them from the Wolves, and the like savage beasts, and they two can never agree. Then said the first Mistress, the Hound is something ancient, and probable might not live long, the Wolf-dog is young and lusty, and the best of his days are to come; and since they cannot live both together quietly, it is expedient one should dye, therefore let the Hound be destroy'd: Then the Lady gave command that the Hound should be hang'd immediately; and soon after the Hound was dead, many Deer were lost out of the Park, therefore they put the Wolf-dog to watch, yet for all that a Deer in two or three nights was constantly lost, and still the Lady wondered how this might be, and the Wolf-dog watching too; so she put a man to watch all night in a Tree, to espy out what beast came to destroy her Deer, and by the light of the Moon he discovered the Wolf-dog

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dog upon a lusty Buck; having tore his throat; when the morning came, the Lady sent for him to know what he had seen; and he said, I have seen what it is that kills the Deer now: declare said the Lady what it is, and he said, it is even your own Wolf dog, whom you put to watch them; then the Lady looked sad in the face; and began to complain greatly, saying, Alas, have I destroy'd the Shephard, and put a Wolf in his stead; have I then through the wicked advice of yonder foolish woman hang'd my good and trusty Hound, which looked to my Herd, and preserv'd them from the ravenous Wolves, the bravest Courser and flower of all Dogs in Thesaly, and have here put a ravenous murderer of my Deer to keep the Park: and with these words she struck the dog three or four blows with her Cane, and the masterless Cur grumbled as if it had been a Lyon; and then said the Lady, how now Deer-killer, and smote him again; but before she struck the fifth blow, he rear'd upon her breast, and flew her before the eyes of her servants: When all people cursed the Counsellours which advised the Lady to keep that evil Dog, and to kill the good Hound. When Radamentus, understand you what I have said: yes right well, said the Em-



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mies, then said he, I will shew you the Declaration thereof.

### The Declaration of the Example.

**T**he Lady delightful in hunting, signifieth your self in all vertuous recreation, so that all Kings of the Earth do hear of your fame, as the King of Egypt did of her Game; the large and spacious Park is your Empire, and the Deer therein are your Subjects, the good Hound watching them, is your wise and good discretion, defending them from ravenous Wolves, in keeping us in peace and safety from the bloody hands of cruel Tyrants; the fair and masterless Wolf-dog is your stubborn and graceless Daughter, who by her ill examples and bad precedents will delude your good Subjects, and in the end destroy them as the Dog did the Deer; the foolish women that counselled the Lady to kill the good Hound, and let the Wolf-dog live, is your seven Wise Mistresses, which daily labour to advise you to suppress your vigilancy and wise care of your Subjects, and let your filthy lascivious daughter live, whereby she may reign in bloody tyranny, and glut her self with the flesh of your people: the man in the

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that discovered the dog in killing the Deer, was my self in my Chamber window, espying your daughter (that shameless wretch) in the Garden under a tree something obscure, with a man committing the foul sin of fornication, and all other beastly behaviour: for which detestable and abominable act she ought to dye according to the Law; for if she live, she will by her ill ways give base examples, and destroy many others: if then you correct her for it, she will like unto the Wolf-dog (leap upon your breast: and) cut your throat. Then said the Empress, that dog the Lady loved so dearly cut her throat at last, but my daughter shall not do so: then she commanded her Officers to lead her away to the stake; and as she was led through the streets with trumpets sounding her doleful Funeral, all the people ran out making a sad noise, crying, alas, alas, the Empress only Daughter is led again to the Stake. Then the fourth Mistress leapt upon her Horse, and hasted away to the Empress, and did obeysance to the Empress, who said, O thou cursed old wretch, little thanks shalt thou have for thy ill instructing my Daughter, and bringing her to what she is now gone to; I delivered her to you finely taught, modest and well mannered, and you delivered

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her again to me ill taught, full of vice and dumb, and a shameless whore, for which this ray she is to dye, to the disparagement of the Empire, and disgrace of all her lineage; I would the day of her birth had been the day of her burial. O gracious Lady then said the Mistress, I little thought of this entertainment, surely I have not deserved the least of this your displeasure; and for why your daughter speaketh not, I commit the cause to God, and in short time you shall know the reason, but the time is not come yet: she is accus'd she hath committed the foul sin of fornication, that is false, and is not to be proved; therefore you ought not to put your only daughter to death for the words of one single person, though it were Justice; and if you put her to death for one mans saying, it shall be worse to you then to the Queen, who for putting too much confidence in Counsellours had her only Daughter cut in pieces before the Altar, and her self after stoned to death. Then said the Emperess, declare that example for my learning, that I shall not do, said the Mistress, unless you send for your daughter back again, otherwise she may be dead before I make an end, then should I talk to you in vain. Then the Emperess commanded her Daughter to be brought back again

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

again and put in prison, while the Mistress  
spake as followeth.

### The Example of the fourth Mistress.

**S**ome time there lived in the Kingdom of  
Thracia a famous Queen named Hicuba,  
who built a strong City of defence, double  
wall'd, and moated round; she was a peace-  
able Queen, and at variance with none, save  
only the King of Lycia, being a quarrel-  
some Prince, and he came against her  
with an invincible Army, and besieged her  
round, wherefore she call'd before her in  
Council her two Counsellors named Anthi-  
nor and Eneus; and they assembled all the  
Noble Citizens to advise how to preserve  
their City, and give their enemies Battle;  
and when they had fortified their Walls, and  
planted their Guards, Anthinor issued out  
with ten thousand men, and made a great  
slaughter among his enemies, and so return-  
ed back into the City; then their enemies  
recruited again, and fell on to scale the walls,  
but were driven back by the Citizens: then  
Eneus went out and fought with great va-  
lour, but lost many men, and so return'd in-  
to the Town. At last Anthinor address'd  
himself to the Queen, and told her it were



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god to conclude peace with the Enemies, for they had lost many noble persons of honour, among whom were the Queens two Sons, for which they made great moan; and therefore he advised the Queen to conclude a peace, that the Enemies may depart without destroying the City, for they could not maintain it against such an invincible power, though the City was well fortified, and strength enough to have beaten twice as many; yet the Queen believed these two evil Counsellors, which proved arrant Traytors; then the harmless Queen asked them who they should have to go treat for them: Then Eneus stood up and said, if it seemeth good to the Queen and to all you Citizens,



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for the honour of the Queen, the safeguard of our City, and the preservation of our lives, Anthinor and I being expert in all Laws and Customs upon so weighty a matter as this, will go forth. The Queen liked well of what he said, reposing more confidence in them then any other, and all the Citizens accorded to it: and Anthinor and Eneus went forth and sounded a parley, and the Enemies Heralds came and fetcht them in; and Anthinor said, we have wrought so about with our Queen, that we have obtained leave to come and conclude a League or Truce with you; but if you will grant us to our demands, as we shall ask of you, we will betray the City into your hands, to do with it as it seemeth good to you; then they all promised to grant their demands. Then said Anthinor, you shall give us a thousand marks in Gold, and with all our Rights and Priviledges, and save all the lives of our Friends and Bindred, with the preservation of all our Houses, Lands, and Possessions; then said their enemies, all these things are granted, and we are ready to swear the confirmation of it, which they immediately did: Then said Anthinor, we must be very private in this thing, for we must make a counterfeit truce with ye, and you must send this word in answer

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Answer to our Message, Thus :

That you require a hundred thousand marks of gold to pay your Army, and ten thousand measures of Wheat to make them bread, and to set up a brazen Horse within the City in the Temple of Iovra : and this Horse said Anchinor, must be cast hollow, wherein a thousand men may stand all armed ; and when it is in the Temple, and you have receiv'd your Gold and Wheat which I will order, then you must draw your Army off the Town as they may suppose you are going away : then when the Citizens think all is secure, and are in bedasleep, then shall the armed men in the brazen Horse come forth, and Eneus and I will give you the sign by a light off the Wall ; and when you see that, advance with all your army on the back side of the Town, and we will open the Gates against you come ; then do with the City as you see good, only remember Eneus and I of our Contract : and said Anchinor, with these words we will depart, and acquaint the Queen of it, and we shall come forth to morrow again to acquaint you of her answer ; so took leave of them, and departed home into the City, and told the Queen what the Enemies requested, which was one hundred thousand marks of Gold, and ten thousand measures

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tures of Wheat, and they would depart home into their own Countrey, only they would leave behind them a brazen Horse, which they had provided as a Memorandum or mark of Conquest. Then the Queen sighed deeply, and said, What, have I lost so many of my dearest friends, and so much of the stately Walls of my City demolished, and now must I be constrained to pay so much Gold, and Wheat unto my very Enemies, and hire them to go home into their Countrey? O woe is me that ever I was born! but since it must be so, go, tell them Antenor, I do grant their demands; then Antenor and Eneus went forth again, and said to the Enemies, your request is granted all what we have contrived, and you are to appoint the day to receive it, that we may make it ready; and after you have that, then we'll be for the City: so the day was appointed, and all was got ready, they receiving it all, then they drew the brazen Horse into the City, and plac'd it in the Temple, though little thought the harmless Queen what hellish plot lay in the belly of the Horse. On the morrow all the Enemies drew off from the City towards night, and the poor Citizens supposing they were all departed towards their own Countrey, reforted all, and through



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through watchfulness being up very many nights before, went to bed; and at midnight, in the dead time of sleep Anthinor went to the brazen Horse, and call'd forth that thousand armed men, and Eneus went upon the back Tower, and held up in his hand a blazing Torch, which gave intelligence to the bloody Enemy; so they came and entered the Town, that all the streets were full, and then Anthinor and Eneus the bloody Traytors shewed them their Houses and possessions, but for the harmless Queen in her Palace was no respect at all; and this Queen had a fair and beautiful Daughter named Palestina, the like was not in all the World; the wicked Anthinor would have ravish't her some time before the Siege, and she refusing, caused him to work this their utter destruction, and as the Queen and her Daughter were at prayers, they heard a woful cry in the City; then they were struck with jealousy of wicked Anthinors trachery; so the Queen ran into the Temple; and Palestina the young Lady poor soul ran and hid her self in an old Tower, by which time the Enemy had not left alive neither man, woman, nor child throughout the whole City. Then Anthinor the traytor came to the Temple, and seeing the Queen there, asked where her daughter was: who

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who replied, O ungrateful Traytor, is not thy wicked bowels glutted yet with tyranny? Then he went to the old Tower, and there found her, and drag'd her out, and gave her to the Enemy, who led her to the Altar, and before her Mothers own eyes they cut her in four quarters, and threw them about the Temple: the Queen at the horrid sight fell down in a swoond, and when she recovered life again, said, Now Villains glut your selves with Tyranny, so tore the hair of her head, and the clothes of her body, and went stark mad out of her senses; wherefore the wicked Tyrants carried her into a strange Island, and there miserably ston'd her to death, and after burnt the City to the ground, and return'd home into their own Countrey. And then the Mistress said to the Empress, understand you what I have said: how a Queen by putting too much confidence, and took too much advice of two evil Counsellors, came at last to have her daughter cut in pieces before her own eyes, her self stoned to death, her Subjects massacred, and her whole City destroy'd; therefore be advis'd, and put not your own Daughter thus to death for the words of one Counsellor, lest it happen to you as it did to this harmless Queen. The Empress said, you have shown me a good example,

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Example, though it grieves my heart to think of it, for they were the wickedest Counsellors that ever were, surely I will take no such advice, for my Daughter shall not dye. The Mistresses said, if you perform that, you will do wisely, and I thank you for sparing your daughter this day for my sake, and so I commit you to God.

## The fifth Complaint of Radamentus.

**R**adamentus hearing the young Princess was not dead, forthwith retired into his Chamber sighing and sobbing most bitterly, and caused all his apparel and necessities to be made ready, and his Wagons and Horses brought up, as though he were just going into his own Countrey: the servants perceiving their Lord was departing from the Court, acquainted the Emperess that Radamentus there Lord was preparing for his own Countrey; when the Emperess perceived that, he hasted to his Chamber, and said to him, O my grave Lord, I thought you had been more tender of my safety, and the Government of the Empire, then to go and leave me thus; to which he answered, 'Tis true, I tender your welfare as much as I do my life, and you know I have had a  
care

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care of your reputation, and the safety of the Empire, but now I see you are going in the high way to shame me, and dishonour your self, and ruine the whole Realm; the World knowing I am your assistant, and do think tis all my advice in what you do, supporting Bawdry, and other Vices, and in the very Court it self; had it been Vertue, the World had ne're taken notice on't; but being Vice, the tongue of every inferiour fellow does noise it abroad like the breath of a Trumpet, or a Herald at Arms, through all the parts of the World: therefore I go from you, for I had rather hear of your ruine then see it; you will be ruled by the words of the foolish Mistresses, till at last it will happen to you as it did unto a Roman Lady and her Daughter, which Example is mentioned: And she said, though I shall shew you all the examples in the World, and give you all the advice I may imagine, yea though it tend to the preservation of both Life and Kingdom, as indeed it doth, yet you would not be ruled by me, nor follow my Counsel, nevertheless I will shew you this example, provided henceforth, you do not delight nor hear the Mistresses, whose idle Fables doth subvert



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vert your wise judgement: the example is as followeth.

### The fifth Example of Radamentus.

**S**ometimes in Rome there lived a famous Lady, whose worth and renown was spread far and near, being beloved of all people, for she was vertuous in conversation, modest in behaviour, gracious to her people, and amiable to all; and in reference to the poor, she was adorned with a free and bountiful liberality, so that she had the prayers of all: This Lady had two Daughters, both of them very beautiful and comely; the eldest she kept at home with her, and the youngest she put abroad to be taught and instructed, having a Motherly care, and in process of time, this Lady sent for her Daughter home, expecting she had learnt much for her edification; but when she came home, alas, she was ne're the better, so she grieved very much for her Daughter, in regard of the tender love she bare her; and therefore she would keep her at home, being the youngest, and let the other abroad: which being done, this young Girl began to do nothing but play, having what liberty she pleased; at last she grew to maturity, and then she would not

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not go abroad without money; therefore her Mother gave her money from time to time: at last she had ways to spend more than her Mother allowed her if it had been three as much; for she kept a private Lover in the City, which her Mother knew not of, and many nights when her Mother was asleep, she would rise and take the Keys from under the Ladies head, and go out to her Lover, and towards break of day come in again, her Mother never perceiving it, but towards morning she wondred how her Daughter came so cold, and asked her what was the reason she was so cold; she said, the Cramp had taken her in her leg, and being loath to wake her, she rose and walked about the Chamber to drive it away, so that excuse pass for currant. The next night she awak'd and mist her out of the house, and wondring how she got out, put up her hand to feel for her keys, and they were gone; so when her Daughter came in about break of day again, she asked her, O Lord daughter, where have you been now? Truly said she, I had a tooth did ake so grievously, that my jaw I thought would have broke, and you being so sound asleep, I was loath to disturb ye; therefore I took the Keys and went forth to the Chyrurgion to draw it, but I could not make him hear me: so this se-

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cond excuse past as currant as the former, and her Mother said no more of it. Upon another time she espied her Mothers Key of her Cabinet, and she took it and prest it in Clay that it made an impression, and from this impression she got another Key made whereby she could go to the Cabinet of money when she pleased, and her Mother missing money so oft, little thought of her own daughter, but sometime fathered the crime upon the Maid, sometime upon the Man, that the Family was never but in strife and variance; and upon a time she went to her mothers Cabinet for more money, and went away and left her Key behind her in the Cabinet, her mother seeing a Key in her Cabinet, and knew she had her own in her pocket, let it alone, and watcht behind the Curtaine to see who would fetch it out; by and by, in comes her daughter, and snatcht the Key out, but her Mother catcht hold of her, and said, O thou graceless wretch, is it thee that hast robb'd me these two years together, now I have found thee out, O wicked imp; I have been often told of thee, but I would never believe it till now I do see it, for which thou shalt dye a shameful death: but there was living not far off, an old woman, whom the young imp was wont to take advice of in all

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her wicked pranks; therefore in this time of necessity she did send for her to come, and by her craft and cunning to save her life. When she came she said, O vertuous Lady, let not your wrath be so furiously bent against her, she is your Daughter whom you have boze of your body, and gave her suck nine moneths from your breast, for we were all guilty of faults in our infancy; therefore let her not come to shame for the first time, the severe Law will give reprieve to the veriest Felon for the first fault, much more a natural Mother ought to do for a Child; and if she should thus dye, it will acrew great shame to her Family, and you will be branded with rebuke for Tyranny: Upon these words the good Mother was pacified, and pardoned her. It happ'ned afterwards as the Lady was walking in the evening in her Garden, she espied her Daughter lying with a strange man under a Bush, then said she, and cryed out with a loud voice, O thou lascivious creature, worse than any beast, I have pardoned thee for Theft already, and now thou art fallen into Whoredom, if I suffer this, all people will curse me, and the Paps that gave thee suck; therefore thou shalt dye, for I had rather see thee hanged then I should be found guilty of thy crimes.



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Then the old woman came again, and said, O good Lady, save her life, consider she is young, and what she hath done, is through ignorance and foolishness; but remember the old Proverb, A naughty boy may make a good man, likewise she may amend and become a good woman; and remember what the Scripture said, He that is without fault, let him throw the first stone; therefore let her shame be hidden this time, and if ever she commit the like again do your pleasure upon her: so through these strong delusions and foolish persuasions, the good Lady was again persuaded, and pardoned her, but said to the old woman, it is very seldom that any who are addicted to Theft and Whoredom, but commonly are guilty of Murder also, God grant that I never hear of no such thing by her, though I fear it greatly: to prevent which, the Goodly Mother kept her within door so strict, that she could not go abroad to her lover to feed him with money as she was wont to do; therefore he would come to her and speak to her through the Window, where she threw him many of her Mothers pieces of Plate and other things; then the Lady marvelled greatly how her things should be lost, and her daughter never go out a door, no farther then to the great window, where she

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he did obserbe, he stood every night : and it came to pass that one night the Lady her self was standing under that window late, hearing the pretty Nightingale chirping her several notes ; and the Daughter supposing he had been her Lover, threw out the great silver Goblet : the Lady perceiving out of what window it came, took it up and came in with it, and askt for her Daughter, and the Maid said she was in the middle Window ; call her to me, said the Lady ; when she came, she bid her go fetch her some wine in the Goblet, and she said, she had been looking for that and it could not be found : then the Lady took the Goblet and shewed her, saying, Wilt thou never leave thy tricks, thou graceless villain : now shalt thou dye surely a most shameful death, the just reward of thy deserts. Then news came again to the old woman that the Ladies Daughter was to dye, and she came in all haste, crying to the Lady to save her life but once more, and she would undertake to advise her, and bring her to goodness her self : Upon this the Lady pardoned her once more. Now this Daughter loved a man which was poor, and both a Thief and Murderer, whom her Mother would not suffer her to marry with him without her consent ; she had nothing to maintain him with, neither had he

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of himself; therefore she took counsel of the old woman what to do, who advised her to take a little of her poisoned ball, and when her Mother called for Beer, to put in two drams, saying, that will dispatch your Father, then you may have all, and take your Lover. The wicked imp was glad of this advice, and did execute it; her mother having took it, called for some more drink, the poison wrought so hot in her guts: when she filled the cup again, she put in more, and the harmless Lady took it out of the hand of the bloody villain, as from a friend, so drank it up, and gave up the ghost, being aged fourscore and ten: for which horrid fact the wicked wretch was burned at a stake. Thus was a harmless Lady first robbed of her goods, and after murdered by a wicked daughter she best loved. Then said Radamentus, understand ye what I have said, yes right well said the Emperess, that was the wickedest Daughter that ever I heard of; to prevent such mischief, my Daughter shall not live a day longer: therefore she commanded her Officers to lead her away to be burnt, and as she was leading through the streets, the people ran out, and cryed, alas, alas, the Emperess Daughter is leading again to be burnt; and as she pass by, the fifth Mistress

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met her, and hasted away to the Emperess, doing reverence as the others were wont: then said the Emperess, you are come, but it shall be the price of your life; the Mistresse said, O Lady, I have not deserved to dye, for your Daughter hath not committed those crimes which ye say she hath done, as hereafter you shall find; and that she speaketh not is of her wisdom, and know ye she will speak when her time cometh: and as for the sin of Fornication, believe it not, for a wise Virgin as she is, would never attempt so shameful a deed, and if ye put her to death for the words of one man, it shall happen to you worse then it did to the Queen of China. Then said the Emperess; pray shew me that example; that I shall not do, said wise Debora, unless you call your daughter back again, else before I make an end your daughter may be dead: then the Emperess commanded her daughter to be brought back and put in prison; then Debora spake as followeth.

## The Example of the fifth Mistresse.

Sometime in China lived a vertuous Queen, renowned far and near; for whole wisdom and good discretion she was espoused



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espoused to a great Eastern King, who had a  
grave Counsellor, without whom he would  
do nothing : soon after this virtuous Queen  
was married to this great King, there a-  
rose a great rebellion in his Countrey from  
whence he came, whereby he was constrained  
to go to suppress the rude multitude, which  
soon he did, and to settle the Uniformity, staid  
there for the space of half a year, by which  
time his Queen was grown big with child;  
and this old Counsellor whom the King left  
at home as Guardian of her, wrote Letters  
to the King, that she was very familiar with  
a Nobleman in Court, whose name was Pa-  
lemedis, and that he thought what she went  
withal was a Bastard : Thus did he  
through wicked treachery, thinking to him-  
self, the King was ancient, and would be the  
more filled with jealousy, and if he could de-  
stroy the Queen and that she went withal,  
soon after the King would dye, then said he,  
I shall rule the Land; and from that time  
forth he sought their destruction. Now when  
the King had received his Letter he hasted  
home, and rail'd at his Queen, saying, she  
was a Whore, and what she went withal  
was a Bastard, and would not suffer her to  
come into his company : then this old tray-  
tor went to the Queen, pretending friendship  
under

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under the falsehood, and advised her to go in a merry way and present the King a Bowl of Wine; and she always thinking he had been a most faithful friend did as he advised her, and before she brought it, he wrote a Libel and dropt it in the Kings Chamber: This Libel expressed, that if the Queen at such a time did present him with a Bowl of Wine, he was a dead man, for it was poison; and as the Queen came in, with innocent love, and presented the King with the Bowl of Wine, he took his foot and kickt it all down, saying, Thou wicked wretch, now I do perceiue thy vile actions, thou hast defiled my Bed, and defamed my honour, and art thou now come to poison me, I swear thou shalt dye the cruellest death as may be thought on: so committed her to prison, and as she lay there she breathed out these complaints.

O Fortune, why hast thou used me thus, I am a Kings Daughter, and was born Heiress to a flourishing Kingdom, and instead of a Palace with rich perfumes, I am here choked up in a dungeon of filthy Fogs; when I thought to be embraced within Princely arms, and courted with Royal salutations, I am here accused with slanderous crimes, that the Gods themselves do know I am innocent of; and thus through grief and sorrow,

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row, and her time being near, she fell in travel, and was delivered of a comely Girl: then news was brought the King, that the Queen was delivered of a Girl, said he, Take that brat and throw it into the Sea: when the Messenger came and told the Queen, she wrung her Lilly white hands, and the tears gushed from her Cristal eyes, running down her rosy cheeks, and she said, Ah wretched Babe, hardly conceived in the Womb before envied, and now scarcely born before thy death determined, and must the wide Ocean be thy Pursery, and the raging Waves thy rocking Cradle, and nothing but the Firmament thy covering cloth or Canopy! O, then let the Gods of Fortune be thy guide, and the whistling Willows sing thy lullaby, so kiss her tender lips, bathing them with brinish tears, and so parted: and then they put the Babe in a Cock-boat, covering it with boughs and green leaves, and hoisted it afloat the Sea, and it happened that the Waves tost it ashore in a strange Countrey, that it lay by the Sea-side among the Segs, and as a Shepheard came, that was looking stray Shæp, he heard the Child cry, and he thinking it had been his stray Shæp howling upon the edge of the Rocks, he hastned down for to see, and there he found the

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the Cock-boat rested upon the Sea-land; so he took the Child and bred it up, and it grew to be the beautiful'st Girl in all the world, and the Shepheard put her upon the Mountain to keep Sheep; so it chanced, that the King her Father came a hunting that way, and looking upon her, said, Fair Shephear-  
tess, what Flock do you belong to, or what may they be that the Goddesses themselves have made you Guardian to? she answered the King, I am a poor Shepheards daughter, and bred up in yonder Cottage: Then said the King, fair Virgin, will you leave off your Flock and come to Court, there your eyes shall be ravished with Triumphant  
shews



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Sheeps, and your ears gluttied with delightful Musick, you shall drinke out of Gold, and be clothed in Purple: and she answered the King, the greatest Musick she delighted in, was the bleating of the Sheep, and the greatest Sheeps, were their new Horn Flöeces, a Shepheards weed was greater content to her then Purple, and a Wooden dish more fitter then gold. Then the King marvelled greatly, and went to the old Shepheard, and demanded of him whose daughter she was, and he said 'twas his: nay, said the King, that cannot be, for her beauty shews her to be of Princely race, and said, if he would not tell him the truth, he should dye a cruel death, and commanded him to be led to the Gallows. Then the Shepheard fell down upon his knees, and besought the King that he would spare his life and he would tell him: speak on, said the King; My Lord (said he) upon a time as I was by the Sea-side looking for stray Sheep, I heard something cry by the Sea-side, and I supposing it had been my stray that I missed, I went to see, and there I found a small Boat the Waves had cast ashore, and therein a child wrapped in a Scarlet Mantle, and a piece of writing in these words:

Who

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Who e're thou art this Child doth finde,  
Make much of it to her prove kinde,  
She mighty honour may thee bring,  
Being only Daughter to a King;  
Be tender, loving, then to her,  
One day thou shalt rewarded be.

When the King heard this, he knew she  
was his Daughter that he commanded to be  
thrown into the Sea, and said, since the Gods  
and Fortune has favoured her, I have no  
reason to hate her; therefore he commanded  
her to be brought home to the Palace, and  
clothed her in most rich array, and made her  
sit at his right hand, after that, he dispatcht  
four of his Noblemen to the Island of Del-  
phos, to inquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whe-  
ther the Queen was guilty of the charge  
laid against her, and when they came into the  
Temple before the Oracle, they did their  
reverence, and the Oracle spake, and said,  
Stand here two days, and speak not one word,  
and the third day you shall find on the back  
side of the Oracle a scroll of Parchment sealed  
up; that take and haste away to the King, and  
break it not up till you come in the Judgement  
Hall, and before all the Councel, there the King  
shall find the truth written; then they did their  
obeyfance, and so departed, and took shipping,  
and

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and the seventh day they arrived in their own Countrey : when they came before the King they acquainted him what the Oracle had commanded them to do, and forthwith the King assembled all his Lords into the Judgement Hall, every one expecting a sad doom for the Queen; but when the Scroll was broke open, and read, it proved thus, saying, The Queen is innocent, her Child is lawfully begotten, the old Counsellor is the Traytor; and the King shall dye without an Heir, if Equity and Justice takes not place. When the Counsel heard this, they all rejoiced, and the King sent immediately for his Queen out of Prison, but the Messenger brought him word again, that the Queen was dead; then the King fell a weeping and wringing his hands, saying, O miserable wretch am I, that believed such an old cursed Caitiff as I have done! O woe is me that ever I was born, I caus'd my Child to be drown'd in the Sea, had not the Gods and Fortune preserv'd her, and now I have slain my vertuous and innocent Queen by false and bitter imprisonment, through the advice of an old cursed Villain; surely he shall dye the miserablest death as may be thought of; and speedily he commanded two wild Horses to be brought, and ty'd the Traytors two hands

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hands to one tail, and his two legs to the other; so drew him limb from limb, and threw his quarters to the Beasts of the Field and the Fowles of the Air, a just reward for such an inhumane traytor: And then he prepar'd the richest Tomb that ever was seen for his Queen, and commanded all the Lords and Barons of the Land to appear at her great funeral, which was solemnized in mighty state, and honourably interr'd her in his own Chappel, where upon her Tomb he caused to be ingraven these words following:

Through ill advice of evil Traytors, I  
Have slain my Queen in woful misery;  
For which advice I ever shall repent,  
And to my dying day be discontent:  
And whosoe're thou art that passeth by,  
Curse him that caus'd thy Queen to dye.

Then said the Empress, you have shewed me a good example to beware of bad Counsel; therefore my Daughter shall not dye: And the Mistress departed from her with a joyful heart.

The



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### The sixth Complaint of Radamentus.

**W**hen Radamentus perceiuing by the muttering of the seruants that the young Prince was reprieu'd again, he grew so impatient, that all thought he would haue ran mad; therefore they ran and told the Emperess, that Radamentus was going beside himself, for they neuer saw him before in such a passion: Then the Emperess went to him and said, wherefore my good Lord are you so impatient? he answered, O Lady, how shall I hide my grief! the great love I bear to you doth prohibit me from leauing you, and if I stay, I see nothing but ruine and destruction doth attend you, in suffering such base and lasciuious actions, committed by your graceless daughter, and not suppressed according to Law, that I am ashamed to go out in the sight of the Sun, my Counsel which you ought to receiue you slight, and rather believe the old Wives Fables, then my grave Counsel: Therefore I fear it will happen to you worse then it did to the Lady, who tender'd her young Lyon above all she had, till at the last he tore her throat, as is mentioned in the example. O my good Lord said the Emperess, shew me that

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that example; and said, gladly that would I do, but it availeth nothing, to morrow you will hear the Mistresses again, nevertheless He shew you one example moze, and began as followeth.

### The sixth Example of Radamentus.

Sometime in Asia lived a Lady, who being with child longed for a young Lyon, so that inquisition was made all over Asia for a young Lyon; at last a Nobleman being a hunting in a wild Forrest, chanced to catch a Lyons whelp, and sent it to the Lady, who no sooner receiv'd it, but fell in labour, and was delivered of a Boy, whom she loved marvellously, and kept the Lyon always by her, feeding it with all the dainties she possible could get, and the Lyon would follow her up and down the House, and seem'd as tame as a Dog: at last he would walk abroad, and run among the Sheep, but meddle with none, that caused the Lady to love him, and tender him like as she did a child, seeing he would run after her so prettily among the Sheep, and not touch any; but why should he, when his belly was fill'd with all the dainties that may be got. But it came to pass upon a time, the Lady went from home, and committed

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mitted the charge of her young Lion to her maid, but alas she gave him not the attendance her Lady did, wherefore he ran out among the Flock, and slew one of the best Sheep therein, and devoured him; when the Lady came home, the Shepheard complained to her, and said, the Lyon had slain one of the best Sheep in the Flock, and the Lady would not believe it, till the Steward came, and also verified it; then said the Lady, alas, if he had slain one of the Flock, it is but through his foolishness, for he is but a whelp, and tender, and knew not what he did, but if we catch him again doing such a trick, we will correct him for it; and not long after he came into the Flock and slew two, and devoured as much as he could, the rest that was left a Greyhound of the house found and eat it; the Lyon being come home first, and got to his Couch, there was no suspicion of him, but the poor Greyhound coming home with his chops all bloody, was apprehended of the Shepheard, and all the blame put upon him; wherefore the Lady commanded him to be hang'd, therefore according to the old Proverb, It is better for some to steal an Horse, then another to look over the Hedge: The third time the Lyon went to the Flock, he slew three, and glutted himself in their blood; then

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then the Shepheard complained the third time, but could have no redress, the Lady still pardoning him, hoping he would mend; and the fourth time he fell among the flock, slaying and spoiling above twenty; then all people cry'd shame upon the Lady, for keeping a ravenous Beast to destroy so good a flock; yet the Lady would not kill him, nor hardly give credit to what they said, nevertheless she kept him in her Chamber close for two or three days, and he lay close



in the Cradle where her young Son was; and it happened one morning, that his wrath began to rise, and his eyes seemed as red as  
H 2
blood,



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blood, walking up and down the Chamber, he smelt to the Cradle where the Infant lay, and at last jump't upon him, and tore him all to pieces, and eat him befoze the Mothers face, then the Lady wrung her hands, and curst the time she refused to kill him: but that did not satisfie the savage beast, but after he had dispatcht the Child, he jump't upon the Lady, and tore her joynt from joynt; and when the servants ran up and lookt thzough the key hole, all the Chamber was of a goze blood.

Then said Radamentus, I fear it will happen to you as it did unto this poore Lady, in tendering and saving your wicked daughter so oft, that when she comes to have power, she will destroy your Subjects, the good Sheep, and after bring you to a miserable end. Then said the Empress, surely that shall not be, for to morrow my daughter shall dye: then she commanded her Officers to lead her away to the stake, arrayed all over in a white robe signifying Death: Then all the people cry'd out, alas, and for everemore! the Empress Daughter is leading again to dye, and they much lamented her death. Then the sixth Mistress when she heard of it, mounted on Horseback, and hasted to the Empress; who was no sooner come, but the Empress disdain,

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disdainfully lookt upon her, and threatned her sorely that she should dye with her Daughter, for bringing her up in such horrid actions, that all the World was asham'd of her: The Mistress said, I have not deserv'd as you say; and as for your Daughter you shall know she shall speak within three days, and all the truth shall come to light; but if you put her to death for the words of one man, it will surely happen to you as it did to the Princess of Burgundy, who for the love of a forreign Prince, and the advice of an evil Counsellor, caused her own precious Daughter to be put to death, for which after she would have given her own life. For the love of God said the Emperess, shew me that example; that I shall not do said the Mistress, except you send for your Daughter back again, otherwise she may be dead, and then I should talk to you in vain: When the Emperess commanded her Daughter to be call'd back again; and the Mistress began as followeth.

### The Example of the sixth Mistress.

Sometime in Burgundy lived a fair Princess of famous worth and great renown; this Princess took wonderful great delight

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in seeing Juffs and Turnies: where upon a time there came several brave Princes and Nobles to shew their valour before this great Princess, and there assembled together seventy and three brave Heroes, and when the Princess beheld them all, she thought the magnificency of the whole World were that day assembled together, amongst whom was valiant Brutus, one of the Knights of Malta; and he behav'd himself so valiantly, that all the honour of the day accrewed to him, that the Princess, was so much enamoured on him, that her eye was fixed all day long upon the place where he stood; and when the day was over, this valiant Brutus came off the Field with honour, Trumpets sounding, and victorious Trophies bore before him: Now the Lady was in the window of her Castle all the while, and beheld his worthy acts, so that her love burned on him, but could not tell how to reveal it: Yet afterwards she invited the Knight to a Banquet, and sent the message by her own Steward, for which Brutus returned the Princess many thanks, and repayed her invitation as a great honour; and when the day was come, the Knight appeared before the Princess in such a brave gesture and comely deportment, that the Princess was ravish'd to see the excellency

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cellency of his carriage; so they went to Dinner that day, and passed away the time in complemental discourses: Now this Lady had a Daughter most beautiful and fair, full of modesty and virtue, and of comely features, and upon her the Knight had a fixed eye, but the Princess never minded that, for she thought the Knight was more ambitious to court her than her Daughter, being young and of tender years, therefore she was clear of any jealousy of her Daughter: so after they had feasted together for the space of a week, the Knight most courteously took his leave of the Princess, and departed home into his own Countrey, promising to come



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again soon after; but failing to come, the Lady wondering the Knight did not come, she askt her Steward what may be the reason of it: he said, that he perceivd the sight of her little Hound did displease him, therefore he would not come; now this Princess loved the Hound as she did the greatest jewel he had, nevertheless by the Stewards advice she commanded him to be put to death. Now, said she, I hope I shall please the Knight when he comes; soon after the Knight came, and courted the Princess very highly, but as he was coming through a dark room in the Castle, he chanced to stumble; and he said to himself, He never come this way again: the Princess hearing the Knight say so, asked the Steward why he said so: quoth he, because the Parret was in that room; O said the Lady, though I prize the Parret as my life, yet go and kill it: So after they had passed the time away in all Courtly Delights and Princely Sports for the space of a whole month together, the Knight most courteously took his leave of the Princess, and went again into his own Countrey, for his affections were altogether knit upon the young Lady, though he did it in obscurity, and the Princess thought it was upon her self; so the time passed

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passed beyond her expectation in looking for the Knights coming again, and admiring at his absence so long, asked her Steward what might be the reason of it, of whom she always took advice: and he said, the Knight has more love for the young Lady your Daughter, then he has to you; for always when he is here, he is in his Chamber wantonly playing with him, and she does all what she can to conspire your Death; and if she live any longer, she will prove to be your utter ruine and destruction. Then the Princess commanded her to be sacrificed upon the Altar to the Oracle of Apollo; then there was an Altar erected before the Palace Gate, covered all over with black, upon which was placed four great Wax-Candles set in sockets of silver, by which was placed a Block of Ebony, a Chafing-dish of Coles, and a Knife for the Executioner: These being ready, the young Lady was brought upon the Altar, attended by twelve Ladies arrayed all in white Vestments; then the dying Lady spake to the Princess as followeth: Most reverend Mother and dread Princess, I am here brought to be sacrificed for things laid to my charge I know not of; and if you put me to death, there is a God of all things who knoweth the secrets of all mens hearts, that will one day

\*wondering

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day bring the truth to light, to the shame and dishonour of the unjust, who are guilty of this my innocent Death. And thus having ended her Speech, and preparing for the Block, Brutus the valiant Knight rushed into the Palace-yard, who demanded the cause of the multitude, and the people said, that the Princess Daughter that day was to be sacrificed; then the Knight spurred his Steed, and rode among the people, making a lane which way he came, and rescued the Lady from the Altar, and brought her in before her Mother again; and said to the Princess, Madam, you had but three things in your Palace beside your self, which I delighted in, and those you would destroy: The Princess asked him which were those: and the Knight said, Your Daughter, your Hound, and your Parret, and the Princess said, My Steward informed me the Hound did offend you, and advised me to kill him, and another time told me the Parret displeased you, and counselled me to destroy it, and thirdly, my Daughter had most wickedly conspired my death, for which he advised me to sacrifice her to the Oracle of Apollo. Then said the Knight, call hither the Steward, who being come, he asked him, did I tell thee the Hound offended me: he said no: he asked him again, did I tell

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tell thee the Parret displeased me : and he said no : didst thou ever see the Lady in my Chamber : and he answered nothing, but fell down upon his knees, and begg'd pardon of the Princess. Then said the Princess, O cursed Traytor, what hast thou made me to do, to slay my Hound I loved so dearly, and the Parret as I did my life, and to attempt the murder of my only Daughter, through thy treacherous, base, and wicked Counsel ; surely thou shalt dye for't, so commanded him to be led to the Gallows and hang'd : Thus was the vertuous Lady saved, and the unjust Traytor condemned. Now said the Mistress, understand ye what I have said : yes right well said the Emperess, and it rejoyceth my heart the young Lady was saved ; therefore my Daughter this day shall not dye : Then said the Mistress, if you do so you will do well ; therefore I commend you to God, and thank you for sparing your Daughter this day for my sake.

## The seventh Complaint of Radamentus.

**W**hen Radamentus heard the young Lady was pardoned again, he ran up and down the Garden like a mad man, crying with a loud voice, O unhappy man  
am



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am I that should thus come into this Countrey, pretending to execute justice, and I am constrained to suffer vice to be supported, to the ruine of the Emperess, and destruction of the Empire, and shame and confusion to my own self; I wish I had never come here! and the Emperess said, leave off such talk, Justice shall be done. A Lady said Radamentus, it will happen to you as it did to the Queen of the Vandals, which is mentioned in the example; good my Lord said the Emperess, shew me that example; that I will gladly do said Radamentus, if you will take example by it, otherwise it availeth me nothing to tell it you, for I have shewed you six already, and yet you are dissuaded from them by six foolish women; nevertheless I will shew you this one, though it be the last I ever shall do.

### The seventh Example of Radamentus.

**T**here was a Queen of the Vandals upon a time who had a very beautiful Daughter, who she tendered very much, and loved as she did her own life, insomuch, that wheresoever she went, her daughter must go along with her; and as they were walking upon a time in the Fields, the young Lady had

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had a Bird in her hand, whom she would  
 very fain have to sing, and because she could  
 not make him sing, she peckt out his two  
 eyes with her Bodkin, and turn'd it loose,  
 and the Bird flew back, and by accident  
 lighted in the branch of a Vine which grew  
 over the Queens window, and there har-  
 boured for a while, singing very dolefully  
 every morning at the Queens window:  
 Then said the Queen, O that I knew but  
 what this pooe Bird doth so mournfully sing  
 now his eyes be out: And then stood up an  
 old man whose name was Mimmon, and said,  
 if it may not offend the Queen, I shall de-  
 clare the interpretation of the Song: then  
 said

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said the Queen, speak on; and he said, Gracious Lady, the contents of the Song is a warning to you to beware and to cut off. The interpretation is, to beware that your Daughter peck not out your eyes as she did his; and that you cut her off before she come to that maturity, as to sit upon your Throne with the Crown upon her head, when you are on the pavement on your bare knees. And the Queen answered, these are but Fables, believe them not, my dear child is of no such nature: so past it over like the old saying, till the time of repentance was too late; for she tender'd her Daughter so much, that she would make her Queen to rule one year, and her self another, and did ratifie and confirm by her own hand and Seal, that whatsoever her Daughter did enact or do in her Reign, it should stand as law for ever established; so when her Daughter came to maturity, the Queen would needs see how the Crown would become her, and made her Daughter Queen for that year, and Crowned her in great pomp: when her Daughter had on the Royal Robe and Crown, and all the power in her own hands, she thought it became her so well, that she was loath to part with it; and for to keep it while she had it, that very year she tarr'd her Mother, the late Queen, of high  
Treason

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Treason for the death of her Father, and brought her upon her knees before the Bar of Justice, and she sat upon the Royal Throne. The Queen perceiving her Daughters tyranny began to spring aloft, the night following she made her escape, thinking to raise an Army; but her Daughter being too cunning, laid watch and ward round the City and took her again, and to prevent her future escape, bored both her eyes out, and then the Queen remembered the singing of the poor blind Bird, and wept most bitterly, saying, Cursed be the time that I refused to obey the voice of the Bird; after that this wicked Daughter brought her again to the Bar of Justice, and found her guilty for endeavouring her escape, that in one day she despoiled her of Life, Crown, and Kingdom, and after Reigned a wicked Tyrant, that all people curse the day she was born: therefore I fear your wicked Daughter will prove so to you if you let her live. The Empress said, God forbid it should happen so; but to prevent it, to morrow I shall sit in Judgment and she shall surely dye: and on the morrow she commanded her Officers to lead her again to the Stake. When Penchisilia the seventh Mistress heard that, away she hastened to the Empress, and did her obeysance, and the



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the Empress frowningly lookt upon her, and said, O thou cursed Caitiff, what hast thou done to my child, how hast thou taught her to be a Whore, a Beast, and a Strumpet, and also hast cut the tongue out of her head that she cannot speak: thou shalt dye as well as she, for I long to be avenged on thee and all thy fellows. Then said Penthisilia, Most gracious Empress, the accusation against your vertuous Daughter is false, and it is but a small time betwixt this and to morrow noon, and if you please to spare her till then, with the help of the Almighty God she shall speak unto you in all vertuous learning, and the truth of all things shall be made manifest; but if you will not, it shall happen to you as it did unto a rich widow which is mentioned in the example. Then shew me that example said the Empress, that shall I not do, said the Mistress, except you call your Daughter again; then shall you hear such a notable example, as you shall beware the advice of one man as long as you live, and so began as followeth.

The

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### The Example of the Seventh Mistress.

**U**PON a time there was a mighty rich Widow who had a beautiful Estate, and she had one only Daughter, who was Heiress unto this Estate; but it chanced that this Widow being not capable altogether to govern it all, she chose a grave Minister to be her assistant in the government of it. Now said this old man, if I could cut off the Heiress, I would quickly juggle the Widow out of it, and then rule as chief Lord my self in it: And to begin his treachery, he said to the Widow, I hold it very convenient, since you are a Widow and I a Bachelor, to conclude a Marriage and spend our days together, provided that you will cut off the entail, and disinherit your Daughter, whereby we may enjoy it while we do live, and after our decease we will give it to her again. The Widow lik't this very well, thinking he had advised her to the best, and thereupon disinherited her own Child: then she asked the old man to be as good as his promise, who said, I will marry ye if you will assign the whole Estate over to me, then I will marry ye on May day next, and be careful of your child, loving to you, and governing

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vern it all. Then the Widow hearing that, reposed great confidence in him, made all her Estate over to him: When this was done, he neither look't after the Child nor cared for the Widow, which made the Daughter run distracted, and dyed in the publick Field, and at May day the Widow wondered why he would not come and perform his promise, at last went to him, and ask't him, Sir, why do you not perform your promise, and marry me: why, said the old Minister, I am ready to marry ye if you have got a good Husband: then said the Widow, Will not you be my Husband: no, said he, I promised but to marry ye, not to be your Husband; the vicer Knave you, then said the Widow; so she went out and wept bitterly, saying, That hand which signed all my Estate to ponder cursed Caitif from my own Child, shall now end my miserable life, so, stabb'd her self. Then said the Mistress, understand ye Madam what I have said, yes, right well said the Empress: then said the Mistress, beware and believe not that old Counsellor, for he does but labour to cut off your only Daughter, and after to ruine you, so that he may Reign as Lord and Emperoz. You have shewed me a good example, said the Empress, though it grieves my heart to hear it proved so

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so fatal to the Widow; therefore my Daughter shall not dye this day, but I shall rejoyce exceedingly to hear her speak to morrow: said the Mistress, by the assistance of the Divine Powers she shall speak, whereby she shall decide all the variances betwixt Radamentus and us, and you shall see the truth brought to light, so took leaue of the Empress, and departed.

### C H A P. VI.

How Sabrina the Empress Daughter complained of Radamentus, and how she excused herself of her accusation.

**N**OW all the Mistresses, Penthisila, De-bora, Cicere, Dejanara, Boadicia, Mar-dula, and Halicuja took counsel how they should bring the Princess out of Prison to the Palace; so they went to the Princess on the morrow betimes to counsel her, and the Princess said, take no care what I shall say, I am provided already: then they all rejoyced, and clothed her in cloth of Gold, and put her in a Chariot, drawn by six milk white Steeds, and they rid on Horseback, three before the Chariot, one of each side, and two behind, with stately Banners car-



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ried before and, all sorts of Musick playing; when the Emperess heard the noise asked what it meant, and the people said, the young Princess and all the seven Wise Mistresses of Rome were coming to the Palace; and the Emperess rejoiced exceedingly, and came out to meet them, and when the Princess was come, she said to her Mother, Hail my most dear and Royal Mother, and fell upon her knees, and the Emperess full of joy to hear her speak, took her up in her arms and kiss her: then began the Princess to declare the whole matter before the Emperess, and all the whole multitude, and she began as fol-



loweth,

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loweth, Most dear Mother, before I proceed, I desire that my accuser Radamentus and all the Gentlemen of his Bed-Chamber do appear before us; so the Emperess commanded Radamentus to appear with all his men, who immediately came: then said the Princess, Most dear Mother, behold the young Gentleman that standeth there in black, who is favourite to Radamentus, above all others, command him to be stript before us all, saith the Emperess, that will be a shame to us: nay said the Princess, be the shame to those that deserve it; and when he was undressed he was known to be a woman to the admiration of all.

### The Complaint of the Princess against Radamentus.

**T**hen said the Princess to her Mother, behold this Fornicator and this whore, who hath commonly lain with him in his bed, committing the foul sin of fornication; which thing he would also have committed with me in the Garden, and because I would not consent to his filthy lust, he ran out, crying, he had seen me lying with a man under the Fig-tree, and thereby complained unjustly against me, seeking all possible means

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how to take my life away? Therefore most gracious Mother, give me leave to reprove him of all his grievous slanders, and false accusations, word by word; and I beseech you to hear me patiently. When you sent for me at his request, I beheld the Stars, by which I knew, that if I should have spoken to you, or any other, within seven days, 'twas decreed I should dye a shameful death, for which cause I did forbear to speak until this present. When the Empress heard her Daughter so just and learnedly vindicate the truth, she said to Radamentus; O wicked wretch, was not thy Concubine enough to satisfie thy foul and lecherous appetite, but wouldst have had to do with my only Daughter. Then Radamentus fell to the ground and begg'd pardon; but the Empress said, O ungrateful Traytor, thou dost ask mercy, but thou shalt find none, for the Law shall be upon thee even unto a shameful death as thou hast deserved.

Then said the Princess, Most gracious Mother, it was told you by this wretched Caitiff, that I should by the help of my Mistresses, endeavour your destruction, and assume the Government to my self? Alas, I should more rather use all the art and skill I have to help and support you in all your Govern-

Govern

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Government about your Empire, and repute you my Sovereign, since I have from you all my living and maintenance, not to deprive you of your Dignity, for in your honour do I glory. Then said the Empress, blessed be Almighty God, that I have such a good and learned Daughter, that I find so expert in all Arts and Sciences; therefore declare to me one example whereby I may understand thy wisdom perfectly, then shall I have joy of thee, and my heart will be satisfied. Then said the Princess, Gracious Mother, command silence among the people, that all may hear me, and when I have ended, give sentence according to Law upon me and Rada-mentus: When the Hall was silenced, the Princess began as followeth.

### The Example of Sabrina the Empress Daughter.

**T**Here was a Queen which had but one Daughter, whom she loved as she did her life; therefore the Queen delivered her to a Wise Mistress to be brought up, and be instructed in all vertuous Learning and Wisdom: and when she had been with her Mistress a certain while, her Mother had a desire to see her, and sent Letters to the Mistress to bring home her Daughter; when she



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came, she appeared to her Mother, so expert in learning, comely in behaviour, and amiable unto all, that the Queen rejoyced exceedingly : and it happened on a time, as she delivered a Bowl of wine to her Mother, the Queen looked upon the wall and saw the shadow of a hand which wrote thre lines in an unknown tongue, and the Queen began to fear greatly, and said, happy were that person which could interpret what that writing meant ; then her Daughter said, if it may not offend the Queen, I could give the true interpretation thereof : and the Queen said, speak on my good Daughter ; and the Child said, Most honoured Mother, this Writing doth signifie, that I shall become a mighty Princess, and shall be honoured of all people, especially my own Mother, who shall bring me a Bowl of Wine, and bow thre times, and kneel at the delivery of it : and the Queen said, Thou shalt never be honoured so of me, nor have such service ; therefore she commanded her servants to take her into a Forest far from the Court, and there slay her, and bring her heart to shew her, that she may know the truth of her death : so the servants took her away to the Forest, and having compassion on so sweet a Child, said among themselves, let us deceive the Queen in this

bloody

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bloody act, and save the Child, and we will put her in this hollow Tree, and kill a Lamb of the Mountain and bring the heart to the Queen, which accordingly they did, and the Queen believed it was the heart of her Daughter; saying, prophecies sometime prove not true. And it chanced that on the morrow after, a strange Knight hapned to hunt in the Forest, where the child was to be slain, and his dogs bayed about the Tree, where the Queens Daughter was: at last the Knight looked in the hollow of the Tree, and there he espied a young Girl of such incomparable beauty, that his eyes never beheld a fairer, which made him suspect that she was of some noble race; and so he commanded his servants to be careful of her and to bring her into his own Countrey, where he did bring her up in all learned Arts, and with royal attendants, till at last her fame began to ring throughout the whole Kingdom, for Merit, Beauty and Learning; and the Emperour of that Land being very pious, came to that Knights house for to view her. And no sooner did he behold her, but he was inflamed with the inflammation of Love, and after dinner he danced with her, and in the evening he married her, and brought her in great triumph and solemnity home to his own Court.

And

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And after that, the three Eastern Kings hearing of her fame, came to see her beauty, and to bring her presents: thus for three years she lived with her Husband the Emperour in all joy and happiness, and then he dyed, leaving the whole Empire unto her, who was then called the great Empress of Blodermario. When she was thus in the height of all her glory, she viewed the Firmament, and perceived by her skill in Astrology, how her Mother that day was deposed by the Prince of Moravia, of Crown and Kingdom, and banished out of her Countrey, and laying to heart the distressed condition her Mother was in, had compassion on her,

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(for pure Nature will never fall away) and therefore she raised a brave and mighty Army, and marched towards her Mothers Countrey: which news did flye before her, that it was told the Queen her Mother, the great Emperess of Bloderinario was coming to her assistance; which made the Queen to rejoyce, and wonder greatly knowing she had never no correspondency with her before. Wherefore she went to meet her, and when she came before the great Emperess, she fell down upon her knees, and said, O great Emperess, how have I meritted so great honour and favour, that your most Excellent Majesty have vouchsafed to come in person, and establish me again in my Kingdom! Then the Emperess took her up, and bade her come into the Chariot to her, and when they came home to the Court, the Queen brought the Emperess a Bowl of Wine and bowed three times, and fell down upon her knees to present it: then the Emperess commanded her servants to depart the room, and then she asked the Queen what Children she had; and the Queen answered, she had one Daughter but she was dead. Then the Emperess said, tell me true, did she dye a natural death or no: tell me the truth, for I swear by my Crowne you shall come to no dammage. Then



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When the Quēen answered, Most glorious Princess, I brought up my Daughter in all vertuous Learning, Arts and Sciences, that for her Wisdom and comely behaviout she was honoured of all people, and beloved of every one; she was my only delight, and in her absence was my greatest sorrow, that without her presence I was discontent: when I was wont to sit down to meals, she was always at my elbow, to give me a bowl of Wine when I should please to call for it: for the pleasantest draught that ever I drank was out of her hand. And it happened upon a time as I sat at dinner, my daughter waited upon me, and as she bare a Bowl of Wine to my hand, there appeared the shadow of an arm upon the wall, and it wrote three lines to the great astonishment of us all: and I beheld it my self, and said, What person was happy which could read and interpret those Lines that were written upon the wall by a secret and an unknown hand, that none but the Divine powers did know of. Having thus spoken, my Daughter stood up and speak unto me in these words, If it may please my most dear and reverend Mother not to be offended with me, I could read those Lines upon the Wall and interpret them, and give you the true meaning there-  
of,

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Then I answered and said, Speak on my Daughter, and you shall find whether I shall be angry or no: then my Daughter stood up boldly and said, The Lines upon the wall written are in several Languages, but the interpretation doth predict or signifie, that I shall become a mighty Princess, and be honoured by all people, especially by my own Parents; for the time shall come, that my mother shall present a Bowl of Wine to me, and bow three times, and deliver it upon her knees. When the young Lady had thus made an end of declaring the interpretation of the Lines that were written upon the wall, I then was very wroth, and said to my self thus, I will never be so serviceable to my own Daughter surely; and being in my fury I called my servants and commanded them to take her privately away, and convey her to the Forrest of Bazar, and there destroy her; and for satisfaction thereof, to bring her heart and shew it unto me, which accordingly was done, and she is dead, which for the reason you have heard I did destroy her.

Then said the Empress, you might well think it was much in vain to strive against the Determinations of the holy will of God; for now you shall know of truth that what is decreed

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

decreed in Heaven above, the force of mortals  
can never frustrate below upon the Earth;  
therefore be it known to you that I am your  
Daughter whom you suppose to have been  
dead, and by the providence of God I have  
been preserved, the Lord putting it into the  
hearts of your servants not to slay me, but to  
put me into a hollow Tree, where a Knight  
chanced to come that way a hunting, his dogs  
did run and encompassed the said Tree round  
about howling and crying, whereby the  
Knight looking in to see what the reason was  
of his dogs making such a howling, he there  
found me: the servants also to satisfy your  
implacable wrath against me, that you com-  
manded to bring my heart, to let you see the  
Execution was effected, they flew a Lamb  
on the side of the Mountain and presented the  
heart to you. The good Knight also (that  
found me in the Tree) carried me into his  
own Countrey, and presented me to the Em-  
perour, where I was not long before I was  
espoused to him his Wife, and advanced to  
the Royal dignity of an Empress: and his  
most excellent Majesty soon after deceased,  
and left me sole Heir to his Empire, in  
which honour and glory I now remain. The  
Queen hearing these words, being ravished  
with joy, and all amazed, fell down to the  
Earth

## The Seven Wise Mistresses:

Earth in a swoond, whom the Emperess lo-  
ving took up in her arms, saying, Now you  
shall know that my exaltation and dignity  
accrew to your glory, joy, and profit, so they  
kist each other: then the Queen began to  
weep, but the Emperess said, Weep not my  
most dear and reverend Mother, for you are  
restored to your Crown and Kingdom,  
whereby you shall be honoured by all people  
abovē me during my Life and Reign. And  
afterwards there was a great Feast prepa-  
red, and all the Nobles and Barons of the  
Land assembled together to congratulate  
and joy with the young Emperess, in  
magnificent Shews and Triumphs. After  
the great day was over, and the Celebration  
ended, the young Emperess sent her Heraulds  
thzoughout all the Kingdom, to the Dukes  
and Princes to repair to her Mothers Royal  
Standard, and render their duty and obe-  
dience to her Majesty, and to set the Crown  
again upon her Head. And after she had  
settled her Mother in a firm and flourishing  
peace, she departed in great honour and glory  
and returned into her own Empire.

Here



## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

Here follows the Application of  
the Example.

**T**hen said Sabrina to the Empress her Mother, Understand you Madam what I have said: I see you have well said the Empress. Then said the Daughter, Most worthy Mother, though God hath endued me with Learning and Wisdom so far above others, yet it shall rather be applied to the supporting of your Honour and Dignity, then to the impairing of your glorious Majesty: like as the great Empress in the very height of all her honour, though formerly her Mother did seek her destruction, she did not infringe her Mothers Prerogative, but on the contrary, she helped her and enlarged her Dominions: Nay, when her Mother was banished from her Realm, she restor'd her again to her Kingdom, and put the Royal Diadem upon her head, and by her great strength and potent power, caused all the bordering Princes round about to live in fear of her most excellent Majesty. And as long as the Empress lived, her Mother was honoured above her, and enjoyed her Kingdom in a flourishing peace and tranquillity. Then the Empress took her Daughter by the hand and  
led

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

led her up to the upper end of the Hall, and placed her in a Chair of State upon her right hand; then she assembled all her Nobles and Barons, and Privy Counsellors, both Ladies and Gentlewomen, and before them all spake thus to her Daughter.

My dearly beloved Daughter, I have not without great joy heard you all this while declare unto me the Jewel of my delight, that is your skilful Arts and Sciences,



your good and able perfections, just and modest behaviour in a wise and princely deportment, which is no small comfort for me to see and hear; and give me leave to tell you

✠

my

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

my prudent Child, that since it hath pleased the Divine Powers to accomplish you with so many Graces which adorn your Princely person as the Lilly doth the Sweet and delightful Vallies : so I hope that all my Lords and Barons here assembled, will to your assistance, as to the undoubted Heir of this Empire, sit as Olive branches about your Councel Table ; for by your learned Narration to me declared, I do well perceive you are able to take upon you the Government of this Empire, and to sit in the glorious Chair of Judgement, which so many of your noble Ancestors have possesse before you ; whereof none did equalize, at least never did exceed you in learned parts or State Affairs ; for you do wear the Headpiece of Medicine, the Touch-stone of Justice, and a Body Politick : therefore I do declare unto you all my Nobles here assembled, that in my opinion and good discretion, I do think it best for me, being now well stricken in years, to leade this tedious business of an Empire, and betake me to my rest, whereby I may prepare for another Crown ; for I have lived to see many golden days, and many others of tribulation, now it is high time for me to lay down my Scepter in peace, and my Crown in rest ; for my Daughter is grown

## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

gotten up to a firm maturity, and well both  
deserve the Ladwel. Moreover, it will fill  
my bones with content and joy, to see the  
Crown flourish upon her head before I go to  
my Grave.

Then after the Empress had ended her  
speech, all the Lords of the Council stood up  
and said, Most gracious Empress, we do all  
think our selves happy this day, that it hath  
pleased your most excellent Majesty to de-  
clare so much your will and pleasure unto us;  
far be it from the heart of any of your noble  
Subjects this day here present, to derogate  
or disanul the least tittle what your Maje-  
sties most gracious pleasure is, but as wil-  
lingly do ratifie, confirm, and establish every  
word and syllable contained therein, as wil-  
lingly as ever we plac'd the Royal Diadem  
upon your head: and we do here mani-  
mously, and with a general consent, first,  
with your gracious leave and pleasure, we  
do ordain and acknowledge the Princess your  
Daughter to be our Sovereign Lady and  
Empress. And furthermore we do ordain  
and appoint the ninth day of the second  
Month, to be Celebrated for the day of her  
Coronation.

And when all things were ready and the  
day come all the Nobles of the Land appear-



## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

ed that day in their Robes; the old Empress rode before upon a Pavilion drawn by six Horses, and two led on each side the Pavilion in cloth of State; four and twenty Trophies or Banners were carried before. Next came the young elected Empress in an open Chariot drawn by twelve Camels covered with cloth of Silver all in State, and the Banner Royal was carried before the Empress Chariot, with Trumpets sounding, and all sorts of Musick playing throughout all the City up to the Palace, where the young Empress alighted out of her Chariot, and walked up to the Royal Throne guarded by her Nobles, and with a rich Canopy bore over her head. When she came into the great Hall, she ascended up to the Royal Throne; then after the Ceremonies were ended, the Nobles put the Crown upon her Head, and the Scepter in her Hand, and before the old Empress swore their Allegiance to the young Empress: and then with great joy and acclamations, the people shouted and said, God save the new Empress.

Then was the old Empress brought into the Hall, where great Ceremonies and Reverence was done to her; then she ascended up to the Royal Throne, and placed she was by the young Empress upon her left hand, and

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

and the young Empress began to speak to her Mother in this manner :

Most glorious and loving Mother, it hath been your will and pleasure to confer upon me this Royal Dignity before your decease, not my ambition to desire it : but though I sit in the glorious Chair of this Empire, and govern the people now in your life time, yet, most dear Mother, the Name and Authority shall not depart from you as long as you live : but in all businesses of Consequence that doth belong to the State, I mean these great Concernments that be most painful and laborious, to ease you thereof, I will take the pains in administering all helps and services that in me lie, as it becometh a loyal and faithful Subject, according to my bounden duty.

When all the Nobles and Privy Counsellors heard these worthy and Heroick expressions of their young elected Princess, they shouted all again, and gave thanks to the divine Powers for raising them up such a vertuous and able Governour as she, who was the Supporter of her Mothers honour ; the true maintainer of the fundamental Laws and Privileges, and the Glory of all the Realm. Where now we will leave her in her full power and Magistracy, prosecut-

## The Seven Wise Mistresses,

ing the false Judge, evil Counsellor, and  
perjur'd and arrand Traytor, Radamentus.

How Judgement was given upon Radamentus  
and his Concubine, and how they were  
both put to death.

**N**OW when the Emperess had Crowned  
her Daughter, and all the great solemn-  
nity ended, she called a Councel and assem-  
bled there the Nobles, the Barons, and the  
learned Judges of the Land, for the speedy  
trial of Radamentus and his notorious Con-  
cubine: and when they were all met toge-  
ther, and assembled in the Judgement-Hall,  
the Emperess and her Mother being plac'd  
upon the Royal Throne, and the Court sat,  
Proclamation was made, and Radamentus  
sent for; where immediately he and his  
Concubine were brought into the Hall, fast  
bound with cords, and commanded to stand  
before the Bar. Then Sabrina the young  
Emperess stood up, and in a most eloquent  
and learned speech she said thus as followeth.

My Lords and Gentlemen of this honour-  
able Senate, and also all you most grave and  
reverend Judges of the Land, you have heard  
already, and are very sensible for what Rada-  
mentus and his Concubine, both now Prison-  
ners

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

ners at the Bar of Justice, stand here indicted. They are not brought hither for a Crime laid against them to take away their Lives wrongfully; but for a fact which they have committed in the highest degree of insolency, and that you very well all do know. And be it known, that when I was at School with the seven wise Mistresses, (I may say of the World) and in the full practice of my learning, this Radamentus now prisoner at the Bar, being then a very great Counselor to her Grace the Queen my Mother, as you all do know, did instigate my Mother to send for me home, to the intent he might learn and find out a way how to entrap me, whereby to take away my life: and to effect his horrid Conspiracy, he falsely informed my mother that he saw me in the Palace Garden committing the foul sin of Fornication, supposing that I could speak and answer for my self: and hereupon he brought seven examples to my Mother against me; and laboured very much for seven days together, to animate my Mother against me. And the reason why I did not speak within the time of those seven days was, because when my Mother sent for me through his instigation, I saw in the Planets a Fate which did predict a sad omen to me: which



## The Seven Wise Mistresses,

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**N**OW when the Empress had Crowned  
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## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

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## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

was, that when I came to Court, if I did  
speak a word within seven days, I should be  
most miserable, and be put to the most shame-  
ful death that ever Virgin was. Therefore  
to prevent his wicked intention, I did con-  
ceal my speech for so long; in which time my  
seven wise Mistresses by their learned skill  
and good discretion did labour in my behalf  
and spake for me: each Mistress spake by  
turn each day, and by providence saved me:  
and the eighth day, by the assistance of the  
Divine Powers, I spake and answered for  
my self; confuting all the shameful and  
wicked accusations this belching Monster of  
mankind had contrived against me, whereby  
the unjustness of his own cause hath now  
heaped vengeance upon his own head: more-  
over, the Prisoner at the Bar in the time of  
my accusation, and long before, did keep a  
private Concubine instead of a young man  
to wait on him, cloathed in mans apparel, to  
satisfie his own lascivious lust, and filthy  
appetite, and charged me an innocent Vir-  
gin with all those abominable vices and  
wicked sins, that he himself daily committed  
in his secret Chamber; he caused me seven  
days one after another to be led to the Judge-  
ment-Hall, where there he face himself, and  
gave sentence upon me, and caused me to be

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

led to the Gallows shamefully to be burnt at a stake, for crimes laid against me that I was innocent of: Therefore, most gracious Mother, as you are the Empress of all the eastern part of the World, forasmuch as I will not own the general name till after your Decease; and all you my Lords and Barons of the Privy Council, and you also my grave and reverend Judges, whose power and authority require you to do justice according to the due administration of the Statutes of this Realm, I do therefore demand Justice upon the shameless Accusers at the Bar, Radamentus and his Concubine, through whose means I was in peril of my life, and led seven times to the Gallows to be executed.

Then Radamentus stood up and said, Great Princess, under whose power and protection the whole Realm doth now flourish; and all you most grave and learned Councillors and Judges, I am brought to this place to answer for my faults, and the many misdemeanours that I have committed against the person of your Royal Highness; I confess my self guilty, and as I stand here obliged before the Bar of justice, I desire that your Royal Highness may consider the service I have done for her most excellent Majesty  
your



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

your Mother; in the time of your minority  
I concluded a Peace between her and the  
great Chain; twice between her and the King  
of Egypt, and once with the great Emperour  
the Lord Belius, in which service I always  
proved a faithful Counsellor; therefore I  
beseech your gracious Majesty to consider,  
and here upon my bended knees I beg mercy  
and forgiveness for all my faults committed  
against your Royal Person; or if that will  
not be granted, let my person extend so far  
in the valuation of your gracious favours,  
as to be only confin'd to Prison for seven  
years, or otherwise during the pleasure of  
your Majesty; if that may not be obtained,  
let it please the merciful Court to save my  
life, and give me exile and banishment for  
ever. Yet all this availed nothing; for  
the young Princess prosecuted very severely  
ly, calling to the Judges, and saying, my  
Lords and Gentlemen of the Council, and ye  
learned judges of the Court, you have heard  
the charge against the evil Traytor at the  
Bar, and have heard his answer; for my  
part I grant no pardon, but what the bare  
Law will give him, therefore let your wise  
and good discretions guide ye in the due  
administrations of this remarkable piece  
of justice, whereby he may pay the due

Debt

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Debt which the Law requires.

The Councels and Judges hearing the words of the Empress, were all astonish'd to hear such wisdom from a woman; then all the Judges and Counsellors stood up and call'd Radamentus, Radamentus, your evil life and conversation is very apparent to the Court, and your hellish conspiracies and notorious actions which here this day you are accus'd of, are publick evidences against you at the Bar; and therefore according to Law we do all here with a general vote pronounce Sentence against you and your Concubine, that you shall be taken away from this place to the place from whence you came, and from thence to be drawn at two Horses tails throughout the City to the place of execution, which shall be under the common Gallows, and there to be burnt to ashes.

These words being ended, the Court rose up, and the Prisoners were taken away, and carried to the prison from whence they were taken; and on the seventh day after they were fetch'd by the Officers belonging to the Empress, and tyed both of them to Horses tails, and so were dragged through the streets, where multitudes of people flockt about to see them, all crying out, Behold the horrid Traytor, behold the horrid Traytor!

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.



So in this manner they were brought to the common Gallows, and there bound fast to a stake with iron Chains, ready to be burnt. Then began Radamentus to make his Confession after this manner following: O people, behold here Radamentus, once a judge, and second Ruler in the Land, whose power extended over all the Empire, and to whom the Subjects came for justice, and I ruled with a strict hand, all the people knowing it very well; seven years I sat judge for life and death, and I have given Sentence upon seven hundred sixty and two persons, who parted with their lives in this place where I stand; I slew my Mother in my birth, my  
Uncle

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Uncle I gave sentence upon, and I seal'd the Warrant for my Fathers death; seven days I did strongly plead for the destruction of the Royal Princes, for which cause I am brought hither to suffer that death which I have deserved long ago; therefore enlarge your spleen against me, and give me fire enough: and as the flame began to arise, the people heard a great and lamentable voice, as they thought ascending out of the Concavities of the earth; and it was sad and doleful to the beholders, so that all were in a maze; for it roar'd out, saying, Radamentus, Radamentus is coming, make room, for the great Radamentus is coming, and no sooner were these words spoke, but his body did vanish from the stake, and his Concubine consumed in the flame: This was the end of the grandest Traytor and Murderer in all the world, very fit for such a lascivious person.

The Empress having now out-lived her mortal enemy old Radamentus, she began a most happy and glorious Reign, her own Mother esteem'd her as her only joy; the Nobles of the Land did honour her greatly for her excellent Learning and Wisdom, the Subjects did almost adore her for the rarity of her justice, and the moderation of her language,



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

guage, her Crown then began to flourish up  
on her head, and her Name began to spread  
over all the face of the earth, and the longer  
she did reign, the more her glory did shine;  
her Mother the old Empress lived till she  
saw, that what for her beauty, and what for  
her Learning, the bordering Nations round  
about did almost give Divine reverence un-  
to her; and in the highth of this flourishing  
Peace, the old Empress dyed and bequeathed  
her own Crown and Royal Scepter to  
be put upon Sabrina's head in this world, and  
a Crown of glory in the world to come. Sa-  
brina after this did Celebrate her Funeral  
in the greatest Triumph which can be ima-  
ginable; she also erected a most sumptuous  
Monument, wherein she interred the body  
of her Mother, with this Inscription writ-  
ten on it:

Within this Monument interr'd here lies  
The only Mother of Sabrina the wise,  
Who counsell'd, was by Radamentus sway,  
To take Sabrina's precious life away:  
But time and fortune favour'd her at last,  
Whose Life was sav'd, and Radamentus cast.

Sabrina the young Empress having buried  
her Mother in such state, was commended  
above

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

above all her Predecessors: for never was such a Monument erected before. Now Sabrina being Empress of all the eastern part of the world, began to grow very potent and great, for all people gave her reverence, and did homage unto her: Kings and Princes sent her rich presents, and came from far Countreys to visit and complement her; but more especially to hear her grave wisdom, and to see the excellency of her Arts and Sciences, which had so much spread over the whole World; she was accounted the greatest Philosopher that was in those days in the world, she continually keeping all sorts of Professors and Artificers, that so she might thereby know the nature of all Vegetables, as Plants, Herbs, Roots, Leaves, and Trees: she kept four thousand Stables of Horses, which were on purpose for her own Attendance; there was no Nation at War and variance with her but only one, and they were the Tartars; so that now to prevent their Incroachment upon her most rich and plentiful Dominions, she chose a fitch man out of all her Empire to build a brazen Wall between her and her enemies, about fifteen hundred miles long, and at every ten miles end she caused to be built strong and famous Castles, wherein she plac'd ten thousand

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

thousand men for to keep guard against the  
said Tartars, which were people inhabiting  
in a poor and barren Country; for they  
sought not to revenge any quarrel or injury  
done to them, but merely for some of the Gold  
and Riches this glorious Sabrina had, and to  
see if they could get into any of her plentiful  
Countreys to inhabit, for all her Countreys  
were golden Valleys both for profit and  
pleasure: and though this brazen Wall was  
built and strongly made, yet the fury of the  
Tartars was so enraged, that they broke over,  
according to the old Proverb, Hunger will  
break through stone Walls: and for three  
hours time there was a mortal Battel; but  
the young Empress Sabrina had a Cham-  
pion in her Army called Gorgon, a Giant  
you must conceive he was, for he was seven  
Cubits high, the Club that he bore was like  
the mast of a Ship, his Helmet was made  
of Brass, weighing an hundred Shekels of  
Iron; this Giant fought most courage-  
ously, and made lanes through the Army of  
the Tartars, that all dreaded and feared the  
place where he came: And on a time it hap-  
pening, that this Giant was in the heat of  
the Battel, and being extreame hot, he went  
to the main Ocean to drink, and to refresh  
himself, and in the vehemency of his draught  
he

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

he swallowed a Souldiers Knapsack full of Linnen, which made it swim, and he spate at it as if it had been but a mote in his glass; but finding himself not very well, he sent for the Emperess Physician, who hearing the great Champion was not well, made what expedition he could to visite him, and seeing him in such a sad distemper, he caused a Ladder for to be put down his Throat into his Belly, which was an usual thing or custom in that Countrey, especially to such men of such vaste and great stature, and commanded his Man to go down the Ladder into his belly, and there for to see if he could find and know by his skill and good discretion what was the cause of his grief and heaviness; but his man would not venture to go down, except he had a Link in his hand; and thereupon he lighted a good blazing Torch, and down he goes: But he had not descended down above two steps, but the breath of the Gyant arising from his smoaking Gorge did very much dimnifie the light of his Link, and to recruit the light again; he smote it upon the rounds of the Ladder, which reduced the Gyant to such an extreame cough, that with the extremity thereof he had a very strong vomit, that by the force and strength



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

strength thereof, he drove the fellow out of his belly, that he lighted above ten foot from his mouth.

But no sooner was the Fellow out of the Gyants belly, but he ran away in a great sweat to his Master, and told him, that he would not take half his Estate to go about the same Cure again. Nevertheless, the Gyant became very well afterwards, and built twelve famous Pillars; upon every Pillar he built a Castle, upon every Castle twelve Towers, and upon every Tower spacious Gardens, wherein a Lady of pleasure might have taken much delight: But whether you may take this to be incredible or no, I'll leave that to your judgment.

But now as for the noble renowned Phtolais, she became so famous by her own State Policy, and by the assistance of that Gyant in victorious Battels, that most Princes in all that part of the world became her Tributaries; all being in subjection to her; and she being counted the greatest beauty that lived in those days, she was obtained by Alexander King of Egypt, and espoused his Wife, that when the strength of his Army, and the excellent Wisdom of

this

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

this Empress, were joynd in one Politick body, they remain'd the sole terror of all the earth for many years together, but in the end were both deprived of Crowns and Kingdoms.

Of the great and triumphant Wedding between the young Empress and Alexander King of Egypt, and of the unfortunate successes that after ensued in his Dominions.

**N**OW in the beginning of April, when the earth had got on her Summer liberty, and adorned with her flourishing wonted ornaments, Alexander King of Egypt design'd his purpose to the Realm of Epirus, for he had heard say, there lived an Empress whose wisdom exceeded all the Kings and Princes both adjacent and far remote, and the fame of that Empress invited him thither; and hereupon he prepared his Horses and Chariots, with his Camels and Dromedaries laden with the richest Merchandize, Gold and Jewels, that was in all that part of the world, and prosecuted his design until he arriv'd in the Kingdom of Epirus, where young Sabina the Empress maintain'd her chiefest residence; and the hearing of his coming,

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

coming, caused her Heraulds to proclaim in all Cities, Towns, and Corporations, that the great King of Egypt was coming to her Court, and also prepar'd her self in person to meet him : she rode in a rich and stately Chariot drawn by six milk white Steeds, with Trappings of Gold, and twelve Ladies of honour with Palms in their hands on each side the Chariot : twelve Lord Barons marcht before bearing rich Trophies, in each of which there was Artificially wrought a Garland of red Roses, with all sorts of instruments of Musick. King Alexander espying the Banners displayed in the Air, immediately knew that it was the Empress, and thereupon commanded his Nobles to drive hard, and when the King was come near to the Empress, and beheld her in all her glory, he was astonisht, and said to himself, O Beauty incomparable like seeming Deity, thou doest want nothing of all the excellencies of a woman, nor in thee has nature fail'd in any thing, but that it made thee mortal : so in as comely a grace, and in as brave a deportment as ever passed between King and Queen, they saluted each other, and in a most triumphant state march'd unto her Royal Palace, where no delight

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## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

was wanting : The young King had not  
been there above a week, but what by beau-  
ty, and what by the most marvellous wis-  
dom he saw and heard from the Princess he  
was even so ravished, that many times he  
knew not what he did ; but it happened in an  
evening, that Alexander King of Egypt  
saw the Empress walking in the Garden,  
and thought it a fit opportunity to speak unto  
her ; so stepped into the Walk, and said unto  
the Empress, Most amiable, beauteous,  
wise, and learned Madam, by your Beauty  
I am ravish'd, and at your wisdom I am as-  
tonish'd, even that my senses are bereaved  
from me ! Great Goddess, if I do not obtain  
one boon from your Grace, I shall live a  
captive to love, and a bond-slave to desire ;  
the thing which I crave is of no small con-  
cernment. The Empress in a most Virgini-  
like and comely behaviour answered the  
King, being amorous of him also : My gra-  
cious Lord and renowned Prince, whatsoe-  
ver your request is 'tis granted already.  
Then said the King, O most fair and pru-  
dential Queen, nothing do I desire more then  
only to make you Queen and sole Mistress  
of all Egypt. The Empress being wise,  
considered the King to be a great Prince,  
A 3 amiable



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

amiable in visage, wise and comely in behaviour, granted his request: For she understood, that matching with such a great Prince as Alexander, she should become the greatest Empress in the world, adding both powers together; and thereupon she gave him her hand upon it, and the day was appointed when the Marriage should be Celebrated between these two great Potentates; all the Kings, Princes, Dukes, and Ladies, in all the bordering Countrys round about, were at the Wedding, except the King of Syra, who always was an Antagonist to Alexander, whom all those Princes now began to fear, in regard his Dominions were so enlarged by the Marriage with the Wise Empress; and his power began to increase so, that he swayed the one half of the World, but his Enemy the King of Syra swayed the other; so that between them both the whole Universe was governed. The Marriage being ended, never King or Queen did flourish in more peace and unity for seven years than they did; for through the daily company of this wise and renowned Empress, Alexander was much bettered, and by her wisdom his were illuminated, and she made him a body Politick, insomuch that he would

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

would be inquisitive of all Ambassadors to know the nature of their Countreys, the disposition of their people, the Majesty of their Kings, and the ways of their Wars. He always kept a great Army, but under strict orders, and much severity, he was feared by all the Kings about him; only the King of Syra, who daily watcht how he might surprize him; he was lovely, valiant, and discreet; he was courteous to all people, loving to his Emperess, of whom he had begot two sons; his love did always burn, and extended so far towards his Emperess, that being in Egypt upon a time, leaving his Emperess in Epirus, he would every morning run up to the top of a Mountain, and look steadfastly towards Epirus, and would send this Message to her by the Moon feignedly.

**O** Sweet *Sabrina*, when shall we in seats  
Of those blest shades quench and renew  
our heats;

There shall the Queen of Love and Innocence,  
Beauty and Nature banish all offence:

In thy sweet presence shall I there behold

Thy bared Snow, and thy unbraded Gold;

There my enfranchiz'd hand on every side

Shall o'er thy naked polisht Ivory slide;

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

No curtain there, though of transparent Lawn,  
Shall be before thy Virgin treasure drawn;  
But the rich minde to the enquiring eye  
Expos'd shall ready still for mintage lye:  
And we will coyn young Cupid there a bed  
Of Roses, and fresh mirtles shall be spread  
Under the cooler shades of Cypress Groves,  
Our pillows of the down of Venus Doves,  
Whereon our panting love we'l gentle lay  
In the faint respites of our active play,  
That so our slumbers may in dreams have lea-  
To tell the nimble fancy of our pleasure; (sure,  
And so our souls that cannot be imbrac't,  
Shall the imbraces of our bodies taste;  
Mean while the publick stream shall drown the  
shore,  
Th'inamour'd chirping wood-quire shall adore,  
In varied Tunes the Deity of Love,  
The gentle blasts of Western winds shall move  
The trembling leaves, and through the close  
boughs breath  
Still Musick, whilst we rest our selves beneath  
Their dancing shades, till a soft murmur sent  
From souls intranc't in amorous languishment  
Rouze us and shoot into our eyes fresh fire  
Till we in their sweet extasie expire:  
Then as they empty be that lately bore,  
Into thee common Treasure all her store,

Flye

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Flyes 'bout the painted field with nimble wing,  
Deflowring the fresh Virgins of the Spring:  
So will I rife all the sweets that dwell  
In my delicious paradise, and swell  
My bag with honey, drawn forth by the power  
Of fervent kisses, from each spicy flower;  
I'll seize the Rose-buds in their perfumed bed,  
The Violet Knots like curious Maces spread  
O're all the Carden, taste the ripened Cherry,  
The Apple, Apricock, and Coral Berry,  
Then will I visit with a wandring kiss  
The Vale of Lillies, and the Bower of Bliss;  
And where the beauteous Region doth divide  
Into two milky ways my lips shall slide  
Down those smooth Alleys, wearing as I go  
A track for Lovers in the printed snow;  
Thence climbing o're thy swelling Appenine,  
Retire into the Grove of Eglantine,  
Where I will all those ravisht sweets distil,  
Through love Alembick, & with chymick skill,  
From the mixt mass, one sovereign balm derive  
And bring that great Elixure to thy hive  
Now in more subtle wreaths I will entwine  
My lovely thighs, my legs and arms with thine.  
Thou like a sea of milk shall lye display'd,  
Whilst I the smooth qualm Ocean doth invade  
With such a Tempest, as when *Jove* of old  
Fell down on *Dane* in a Storm of Gold;

Yet



## The Seven Wife Mistresses.

Yet my tall pine shall in the Cyprian strait  
Bide safe at Anchor, and unlade her freight;  
My rudder with thy bold hand, like a try'd  
And skilful Pilot, thou shalt steer and guide  
My Bark into loves Channel, where it shall  
Dance as the bounding Waves do rise and fall:  
Then shall thy circling arms embrace and clip  
My willing body and thy balmy lip.  
Bath me in juice of kisses, whose perfume  
Like a Religious Incense shall consume,  
And send up holy vapours, to whose powers  
Thou bless our loves & crown our sportfull hours,  
Now we lock bonds in wreath our twisted loves  
We seek no midnight Arbours, nor dark Groves  
To hide our Kisses, there the hated name  
Of Husband, Wife, lust, modest, chaste, or shame,  
Are vain and empty words, whose very sound  
Was never heard in the Elysian ground:  
All things are lawfull there that may delight  
Nature, or unrestrained appetite;  
Like and enjoy, to will and act is one,  
We only sue where loves rites are not done.

These and ten thousand such expressions this  
brave King Alexander did use towards his  
renowned Empress; but fortune not willing  
to favour him did cast a cloud over this pat-  
tern of vertue; for no sooner had he left his  
King-

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

Kingdom of Egypt and arriv'd again in Epirus, but there came a Herald to Arms from the King of Syra to challenge him to the field, that upon the happy success of one Battel, the whole Universe lay on't, for they two governed all the other Kings in the world: Alexander with a brave courageous spirit answered the Herald, I look't for the King of Syra in the field long ago, I wonder his Chariot Wheels are so heavy in driving; and bid him meet upon the Downs of Opher, where I will be in person to assail him and his ten Legions; and presently commanded his Drums to beat, and his Trumpets to sound, with other Instruments of War, and so marched out with his Army, taking his leave of his Royal Princes, and his two Sons, with showers of tears betwixt them both, so parted the one from the other with heavy hearts. When brave King Alexander was arriv'd upon the Downs of Opher, he plac'd his men in Battel Aray, and began to admonish them in these words; Most brave and warlike Souldiers, both Epirians and Egyptians, I exhort you this day to be of good courage, and fight manfully, your cause is just and right: for the Syrans are coming against us without cause, and we are  
upon

## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

upon our defence ; and this great Battel is the Battle for the whole world ; in the very heat of the Battle think to your selves that you do see the grave Senators of Epyrus bowing down their hoary heads, praying for your good success ; think that you do hear the Prayers of your Fathers, Mothers, Wives, and Childzen for you ; and know that whosoever intends to see their friends again, must this day ransome himself with his Sword : think to your selves that if the Syrans doth vanquish us, how that my head will be plac'd upon a Poll, and pitch'd up in the Market-place , and my quarters hung up , two in Egypt and two in Epirus ; our Cities and Town burnt and turned to ashes , our Maidens and Virgins deflowred , our Childzens brains dash't against the walls, and our young men slain and murthered , and the brand of scorn upon our Kingdoms for perpetuity. And on the other side, if we do get the day, honour and renown shall be upon our heads, and the glories of Syra shall come into Epirus ; Gold and Silver shall be your rewards, and the labour of your Prince you shall have to eternity. The Souldiers answered, Most great King, if the Gold of Ophir will make you glorious , if the Treasures

## The Seven Wise Mistresses:

tures of Syra will make you great, and if the strength of our Army will make you considerable both at home and abroad : be assured great King, you are this day the Master of all the Universe, for here is not a Souldier but at your command will cut his Fathers Throat, and sheath his Sword in his Brothers Blood, to rob the Gods and pull the Temples down, all this will they do if you command them. But this time there was but one Fields breadth between the two Armies ; all Rampiers, Trees, and Hedges were levelled even with the ground ; Lyons and Bears were seen to come out of the Woods, as of purpose to devour dead Carcasses ; Vultures which are ravening Birds, did darken the Air ; Lightning and Thunder came down that did melt the heads of the Foot-mens Spears, and singed the hair on their Heads, and the Horse Manes. King Alexander divided his Army into four parts, his right Wing consisted of ten thousand, conducted by ten Kings, the Forlorn-hope were five thousand, the left Wing were ten thousand, conducted by ten Epirian Lords, the main body was led by brave Alexander himself ; the Battle began hot and sharp, the Forlorn-hope of the Epirians were driven  
back



## The Seven Wise Mistresses.

back to the main Body; then advanced Alexander himself, and the Battel began to be mortal, the dispute did hold till twelue a clock, and there fell on both sides above eight thousand: In the afternoon the Battel began again, and the discomferture fell upon the Epirians, for in four hours time Alexander was fain to quit the Field, being totally defeated and most of his men slain. Alexander was fain to throw his Crown upon the ground, because he would not be known, and escaped by Sea in a poor Fishermans Boat, and sailed into Epirus; and at the Haven where he designed to Land, there his Royal Embassage was waiting when any Ship would come in with news; and at last they espied a poor Fishermans Boat King Alexander himself, at which sight, fear smote her to the heart, that she swooned upon the thought that the King was utterly overthrown; but Alexander took her up in his arms, and kissed her, with a Showre of tears bedewing their Princely Cheeks; but there was no remedy, for their Kingdoms were wrested from them, and they forced to fly into an uninhabited Island, wherein they spent the remnant of their days with three other petty Kings. Soon after Alexander dyed,

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## The Seven Wñe Mistresses.

dyed and his Empress, who, in a Sepulchre  
which he hewed out himself, were both  
interred ; on which was written this fol-  
lowing Epitaph.

Within this House of Stone here lyes  
The King of Ægypt, who was call'd the Wise :  
Likewise that glorious and illustrious Queen  
Of the Epirians here is to be seen ;  
Who from all Right and Justice were debarr'd ;  
When Scans King in Battle with him Warr'd.



**F I N I S.**

